

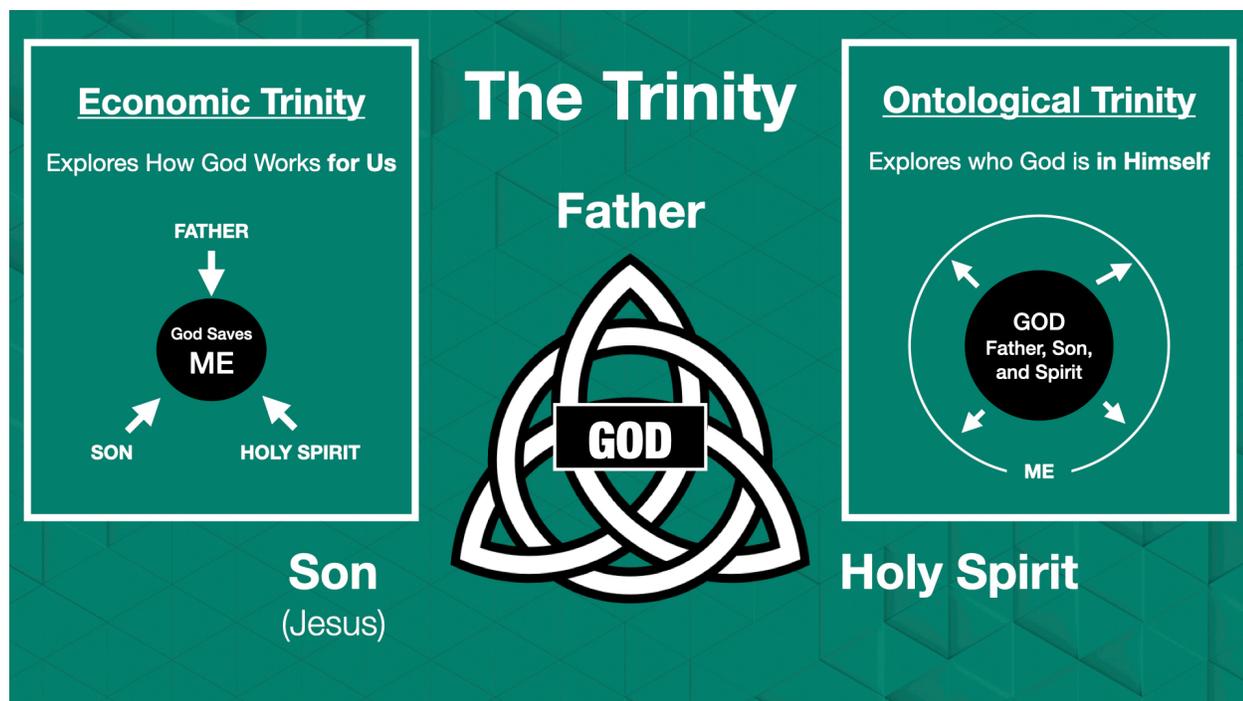


Saturday, March 15

What is the Trinity?

Trinity noun [Latin *trinitas*; *tres* and *unus*, *unitas*, one, unity.]

- **Dictionary Definition:** “In theology, the union of three persons in one Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” (Webster 1828 Dictionary)
- **ONE ESSENCE – THREE PERSONS**



Economic Trinity | Explores How **God Works** FOR US. (Redemption)

- 1) The **Father** — plans and sends.
- 2) The **Son** — accomplishes redemption through His life, death, and resurrection
- 3) The **Holy Spirit** — applies salvation and empowers believers

Ontological Trinity | Explores Who **God is** IN HIMSELF.

The **Father**, The **Son**, and The **Holy Spirit** — exist and relate with all the perfections of the attributes of the God-Head before and without Creation.

Historic Trinitarian Heresies

Tritheism



The Early Church & the Doctrine of the Trinity



1) TRITHEISM

...confesses the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as three independent divine beings; three separate gods who share the 'same substance'. This is a common mistake because of misunderstanding of the use of the term 'persons' in defining the Trinity.

Modalism



The Early Church & the Doctrine of the Trinity



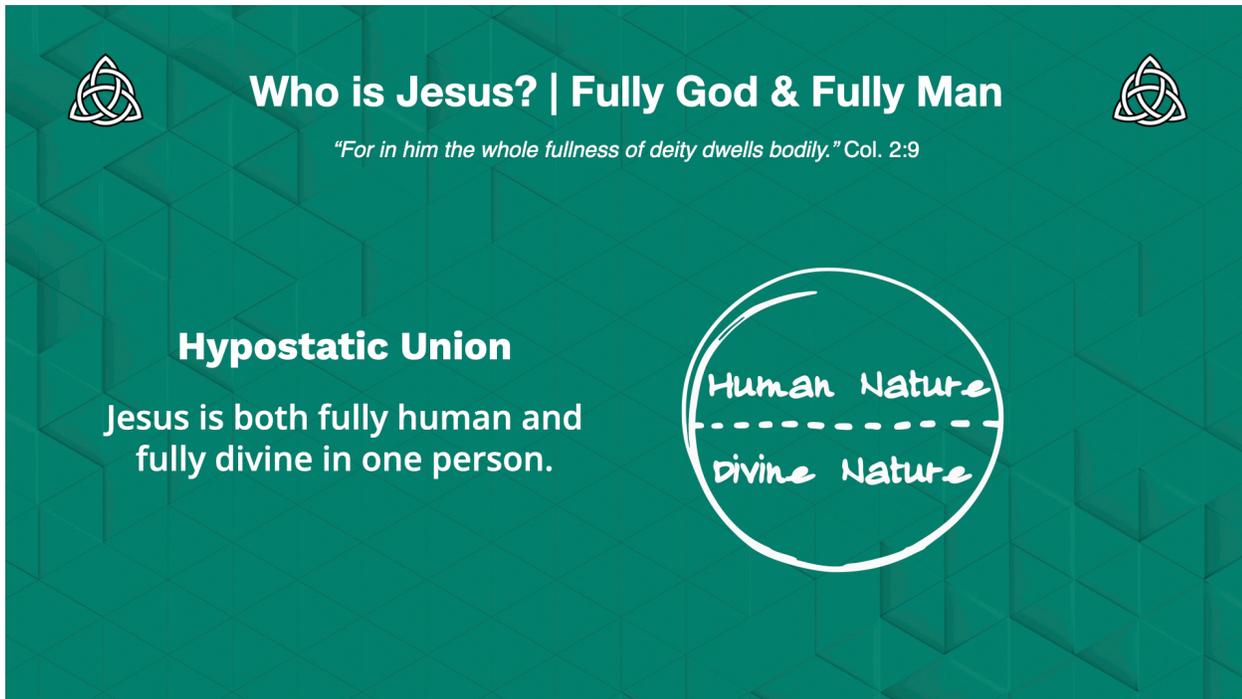
1) TRITHEISM (God head, three-separate Gods)

2) MODALISM (i.e. Sabellianism or Modalistic monarchianism)

...taught that the three persons of the Trinity as different "modes" of the Godhead. Adherents believed that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not distinct personalities, but different modes of God's self-revelation. A typical modalist approach is to regard God as the Father in creation, the Son in redemption, and the Spirit in sanctification. In other words, God exists as Father, Son and Spirit in different eras, but never as triune. Stemming from Modalism, Patripassianism believed that the Father suffered as the Son.

Who is Jesus? | Fully God & Fully Man

Hypostatic Union



Who is Jesus? | Fully God & Fully Man

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily." Col. 2:9

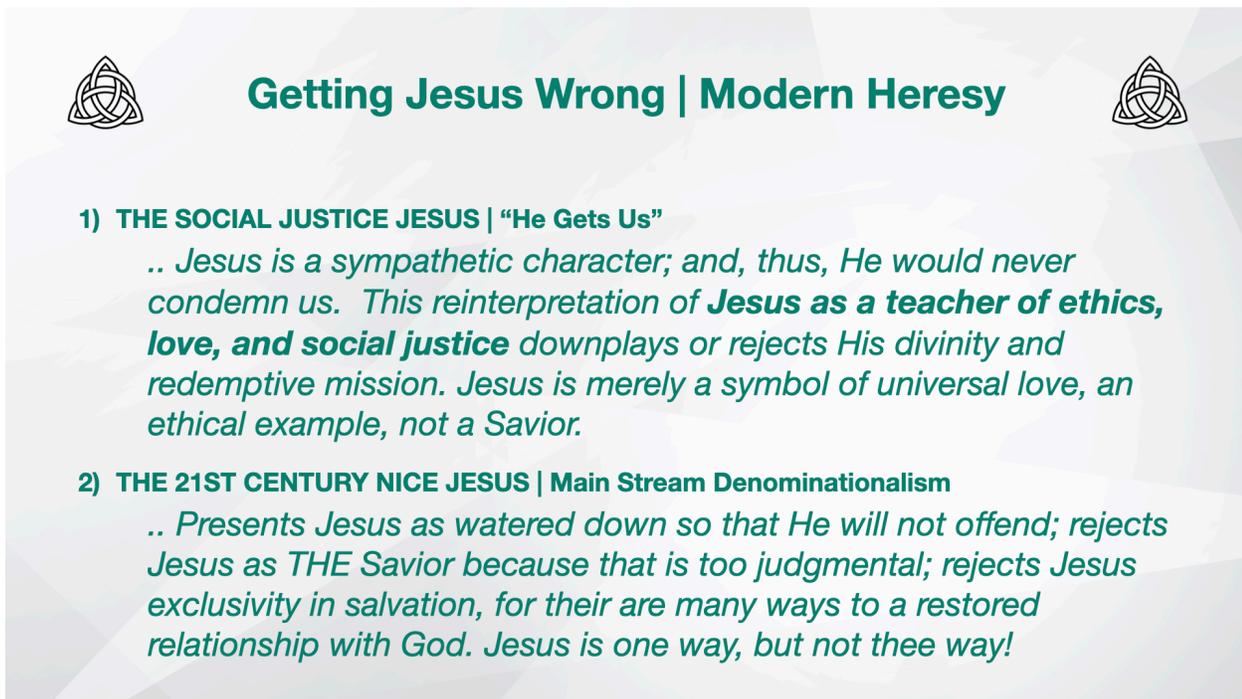
Hypostatic Union

Jesus is both fully human and fully divine in one person.

Human Nature

Divine Nature

Getting Jesus Wrong | Some Modern Heresies



Getting Jesus Wrong | Modern Heresy

- 1) THE SOCIAL JUSTICE JESUS | "He Gets Us"**
*.. Jesus is a sympathetic character; and, thus, He would never condemn us. This reinterpretation of **Jesus as a teacher of ethics, love, and social justice** downplays or rejects His divinity and redemptive mission. Jesus is merely a symbol of universal love, an ethical example, not a Savior.*
- 2) THE 21ST CENTURY NICE JESUS | Main Stream Denominationalism**
*.. Presents Jesus as watered down so that He will not offend; rejects Jesus as **THE Savior** because that is too judgmental; rejects Jesus exclusivity in salvation, for there are many ways to a restored relationship with God. Jesus is one way, but not thee way!*

Why Study the Trinity?

Why is the Study the Trinity for me?

People say,

"The Study of the Trinity is for Theologians, right?"

"If I am ignorant of the Trinity, welcome to the club? The Trinity is beyond contemplation?"

Why study the Trinity?

God is God — an unsepecified God is inadequate. God said you need to know who I am. (Jer. 9:23-24)

It is an affront to God not to worship him for who He says He is.



THEOLOGICAL FORUM DISCUSSION OUTLINE

| PERSON-HOOD | INTRODUCTION | ATTRIBUTE TEXT | REFLECTIONS FOR US | MY QUESTIONS/THOUGHTS |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Father | The Word: John 1 | Outward-Giving Father: John 17 | Our Witnessing | |
| | | Love-overflowing Father: 1 John 4 v. 7-17 | | |
| Son | King: Psalm 110:1, Matt 22:41-45 | Submitting Son: John 5:17-23 John 8:25-28 | Our Marriages Church relations | |
| | | | | |
| Spirit | Teacher: John 14- 16 | Interceder: Rom 8:11-17 Rom 8:26-27 | Our Praying | |
| | | Mind of God: 1 Cor 2:8-12 | | |



POST-FORUM ASSIGNMENT



To reinforce our learning and to encourage our congregation's understanding of God's Sovereignty, Wisdom, and Love in Suffering:

Assignment

1. Personal: Choose a stanza from a hymn and share with another TF attendee how it exhorts or comforts you in affliction.

– Send your hymn stanza to Mike, Jon or Daniel

2. Relational: Choose a verse(s) where God speaks of His Person, Work and/or our need and write a card relaying this biblical truth to exhort or comfort another in affliction.

Complete Assignment by July 1st.

1) Hymn & specific Phrase or Stanza I find greatly encouraging in Suffering:

The Truth of these words that encouraged me:

2) The Verse I chose to share with another in affliction/suffering:

How I used this verse to relay God's Person, Work, and/or our need to exhort or comfort my friend: (list the truth the details of your friends situation are not needed)

My Discussion Partner: _____ **Date of Meeting:** _____