



The Gospel


ESTABLISHING GOOD FOUNDATIONS

Scripture

- ▶ Colossians 1:15 -23
- ▶ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.
- ▶ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Purpose

- ▶ How did we get here?
- ▶ What do we believe?



“‘Prophecy’ means primarily the explanation of things which are unclear, **whether future or past**, whether present or hidden.”

(Diodore of Tarsus, *Pauline Commentary from the Greek Church* [on the gift of prophecy]).



“Not to know what took place before
you were born [is] to remain forever a
child”

Cicero (107-43BC).

“Those who do not learn history
are doomed to repeat it”

George Santayana (1863-1952).



A nugget, to
edified you.

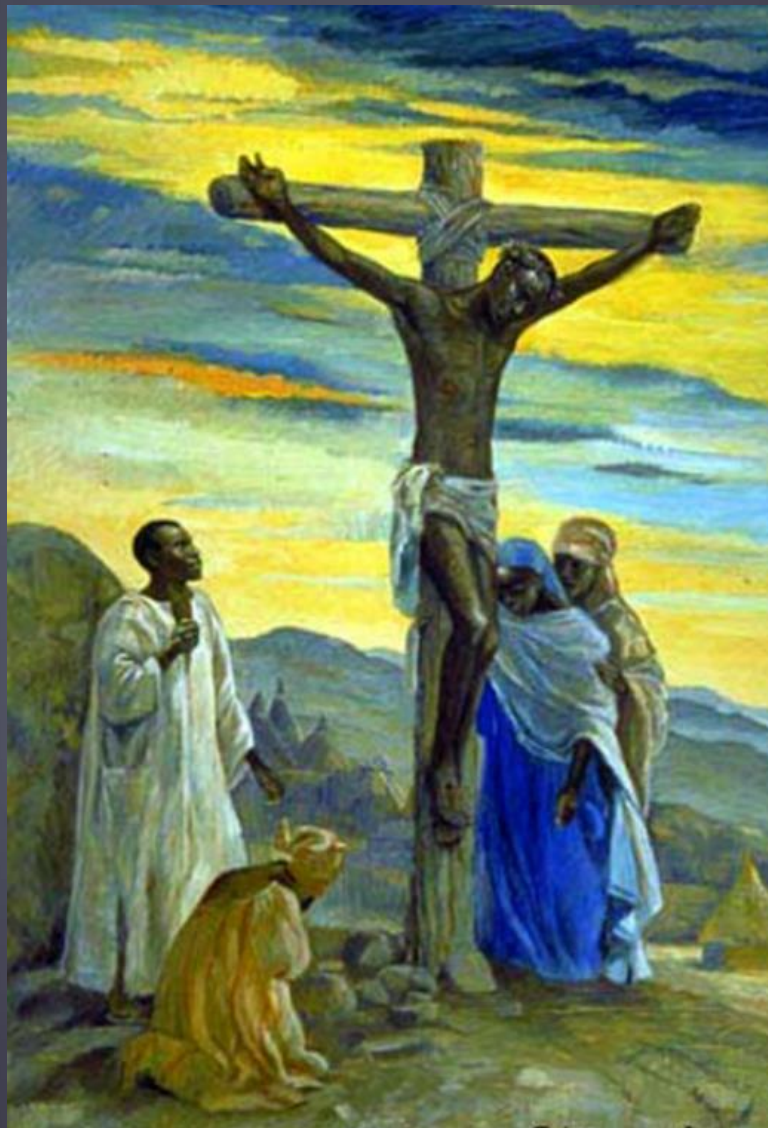
“The Christian believes that Christians past and present (and future for that matter) are all bound up together in the Body of Christ...this means that the Christian will be looking, in his or her study of Christian history for what feeds and nourishes belief now; they will not simply write off the past as a record of sad or cruel or stupid error (however much there may be of all those). There will be an element of expectation: we shall emerge from a study of the past with some greater measure of Christian maturity”

(Williams, *Why Study the Past?*, p.3).

Experiencing Jesus' Ministry

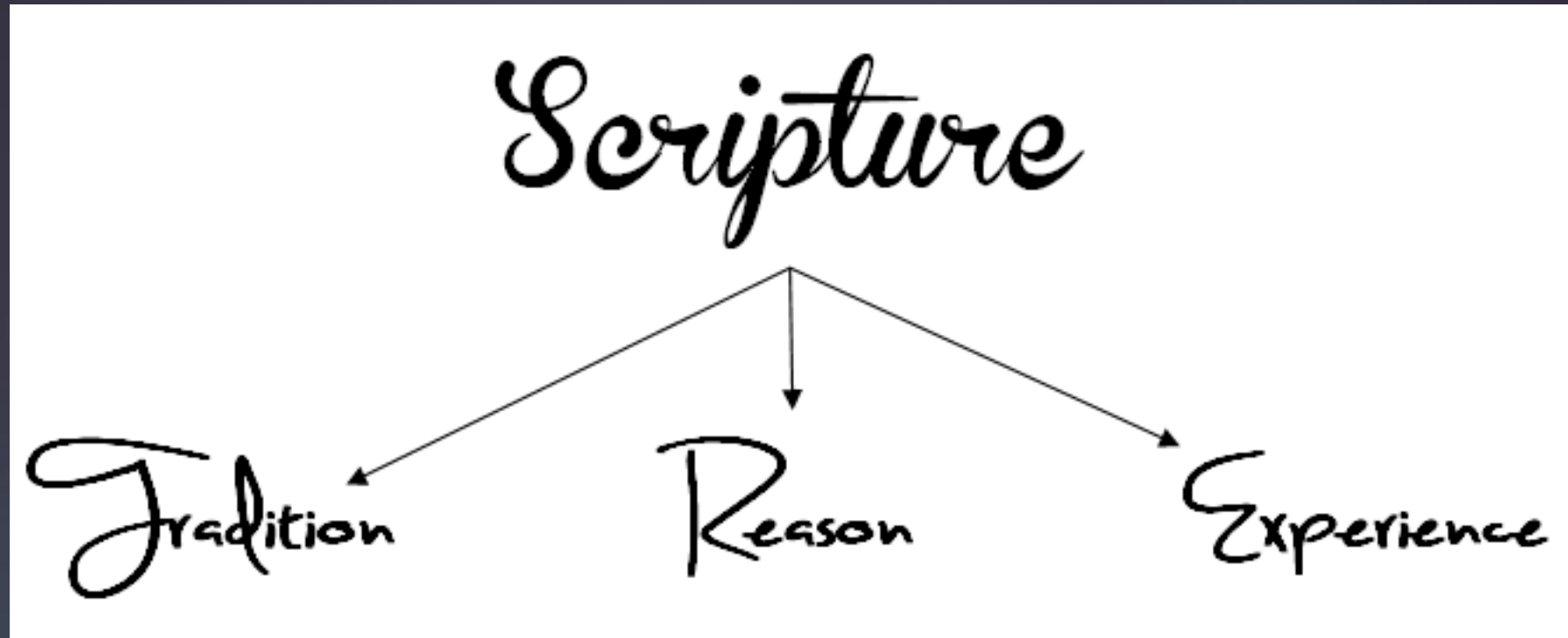


Experiencing Jesus' Death



Experiencing Pentecost





To have a balanced approach to Christian life

Viewpoints of Faith

- ▶ Richard Hooker (1554-1600):


Scripture, Tradition, Reason

- ▶ John Wesley (1703-1791):

Scripture, Tradition, Reason, Experience

- ▶ John Macquarrie (post WW2):

Scripture, Tradition, Reason, Experience,
Culture (group's beliefs, values, practices)



John Wesley (18th century):

Theology is based on Scripture –
interpreted with help of reason and
tradition, in the light of experience

Don't worry... it's all inspired by the
presence of the Holy Spirit.

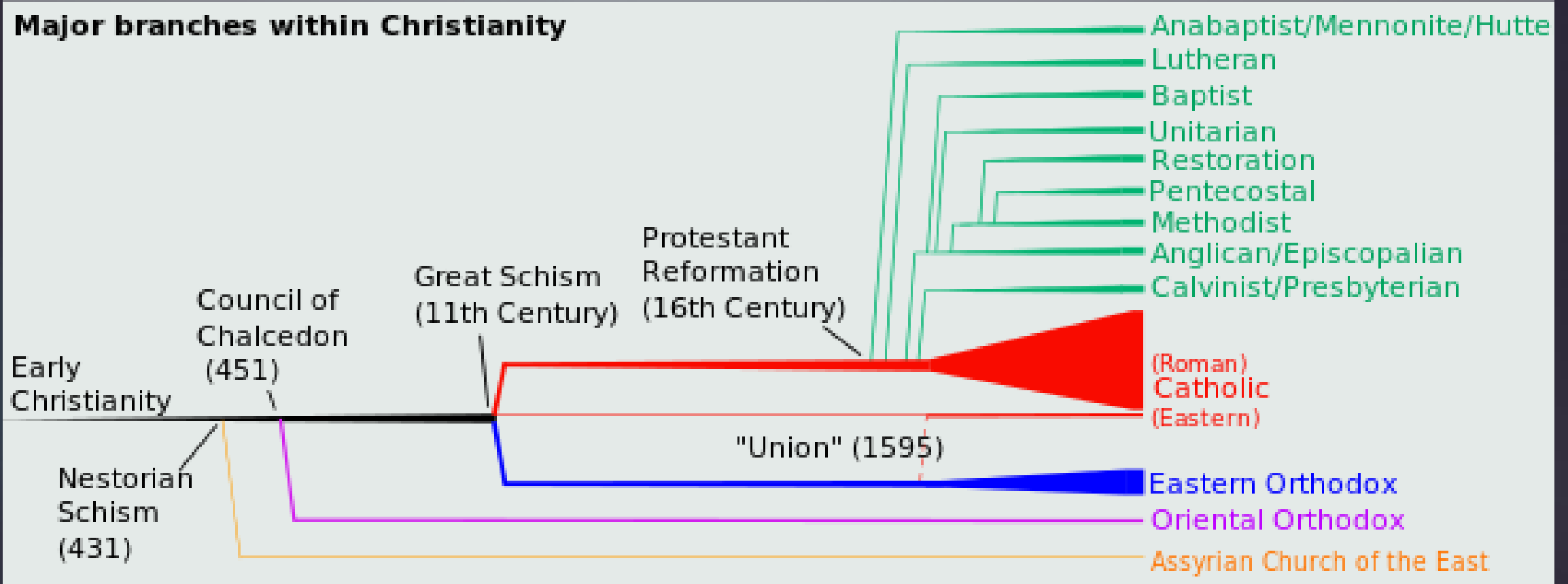
- ▶ From the “beginning” until the “conversion of Constantine” (312) OR...invasion/fall of Rome (410/476); OR elevation of Gregory the Great (590).
 - ▶ AD 30-ish Jesus’ death and resurrection
 - ▶ Pauline missions and those of other Apostles – up to about AD 70
 - ▶ NT writings being written AD 50-100 or so
 - ▶ Periods of persecution – AD 64-250 (sporadic); 250-311 (systematic).
 - ▶ 312 – Battle of Milvian Bridge – Constantine’s “conversion”
 - ▶ 313 – Edict of Milan

- ▶ From Constantine through the Medieval period:
 - ▶ Debates over the incarnation and the Trinity – heresies and Councils (Nicaea 325, first of “seven ecumenical councils”)
 - ▶ The “establishment of orthodoxy” – Creeds, Canon of Scripture (Synod of Hippo 393)
 - ▶ Barbarian invasions and fall of the Roman Empire
 - ▶ Rise of Islam
 - ▶ Christianisation of Western Europe – including British Isles (sixth and seventh centuries)
 - ▶ Rise of Monasticism
 - ▶ The Crusades (1100-1200)
 - ▶ The mendicant orders of thirteenth century
 - ▶ Early Reformers

- ▶ Reformation(s): (sixteenth century)
 - ▶ Luther's ninety-five theses and the beginnings of the protestant Reformation -1517
 - ▶ Anabaptist movement begins - 1525
 - ▶ Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* - 1536
 - ▶ Henry VIII Act of Supremacy 1536 (beginnings of Church of [in] England)
 - ▶ Council of Trent (Catholic Reformation) – 1545
 - ▶ Protestant-Catholic persecutions in England
 - ▶ Founding of the Jesuits and the Jesuit Missions (early sixteenth cent.)
 - ▶ Francis Xavier's missions to Japan – 1549 (Japanese persecution of Christians 1596)

- ▶ Modern period:
 - ▶ French Revolution – the rise of secularism (1789+)
 - ▶ Moravian and Methodist/Evangelical revivals
 - ▶ Colonialism and European missionary movements
 - ▶ Salvation Army
 - ▶ Modern Pentecostal Movement and Renewal
 - ▶ WORLD WARS – 1914-18; 1939-1945
 - ▶ World Council of Churches founded – 1948
 - ▶ Second Vatican Council – 1962-62

Major branches within Christianity



What do we believe?

The Trinity



What do you believe?

GOD, The Father

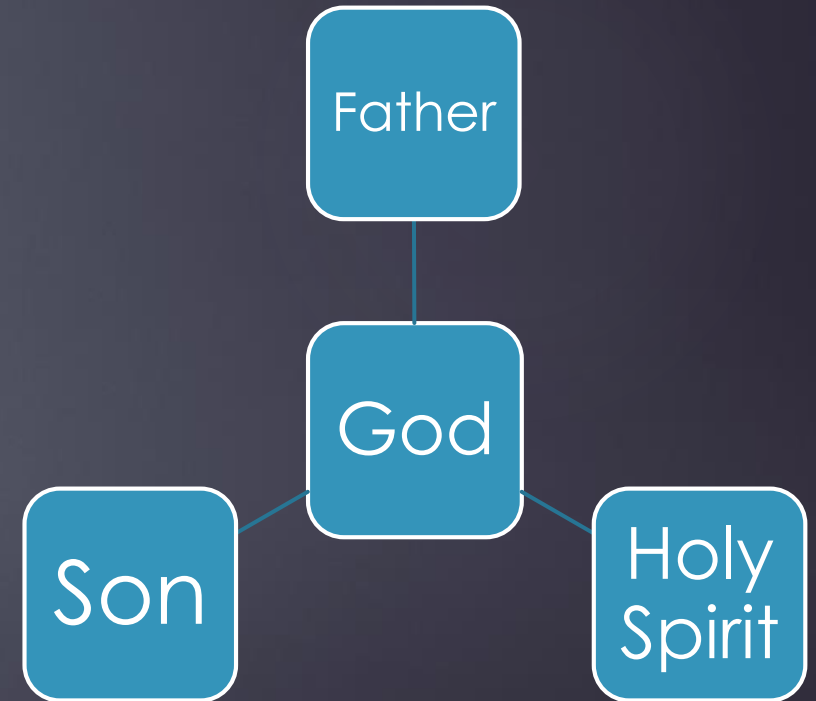
The Son

Holy Spirit

Father

Son

Holy Spirit



Trinitarian Heresies:

Subordinationism:

Hierarchy of divinity

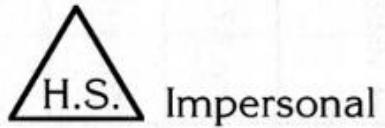
Tritheism:

Three equal, independent beings

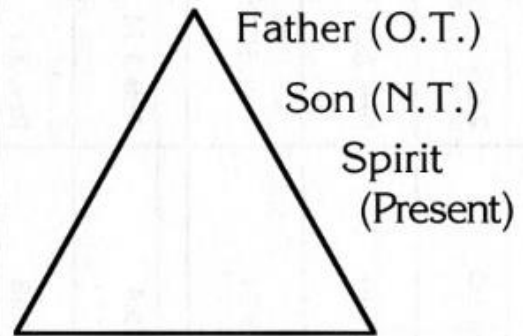
Modalism:

Three different ways of being God at different times

Unitarianism

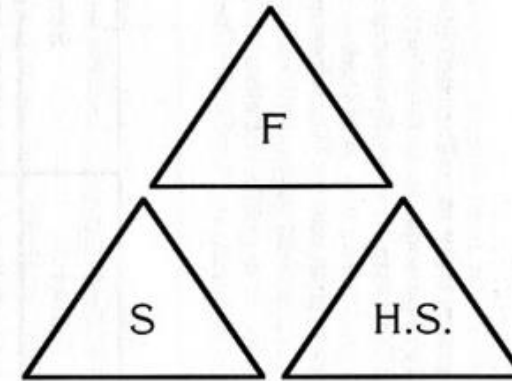


Sabellianism



Modalistic Trinity

Tritheism



Three gods

Baptismal Creed:

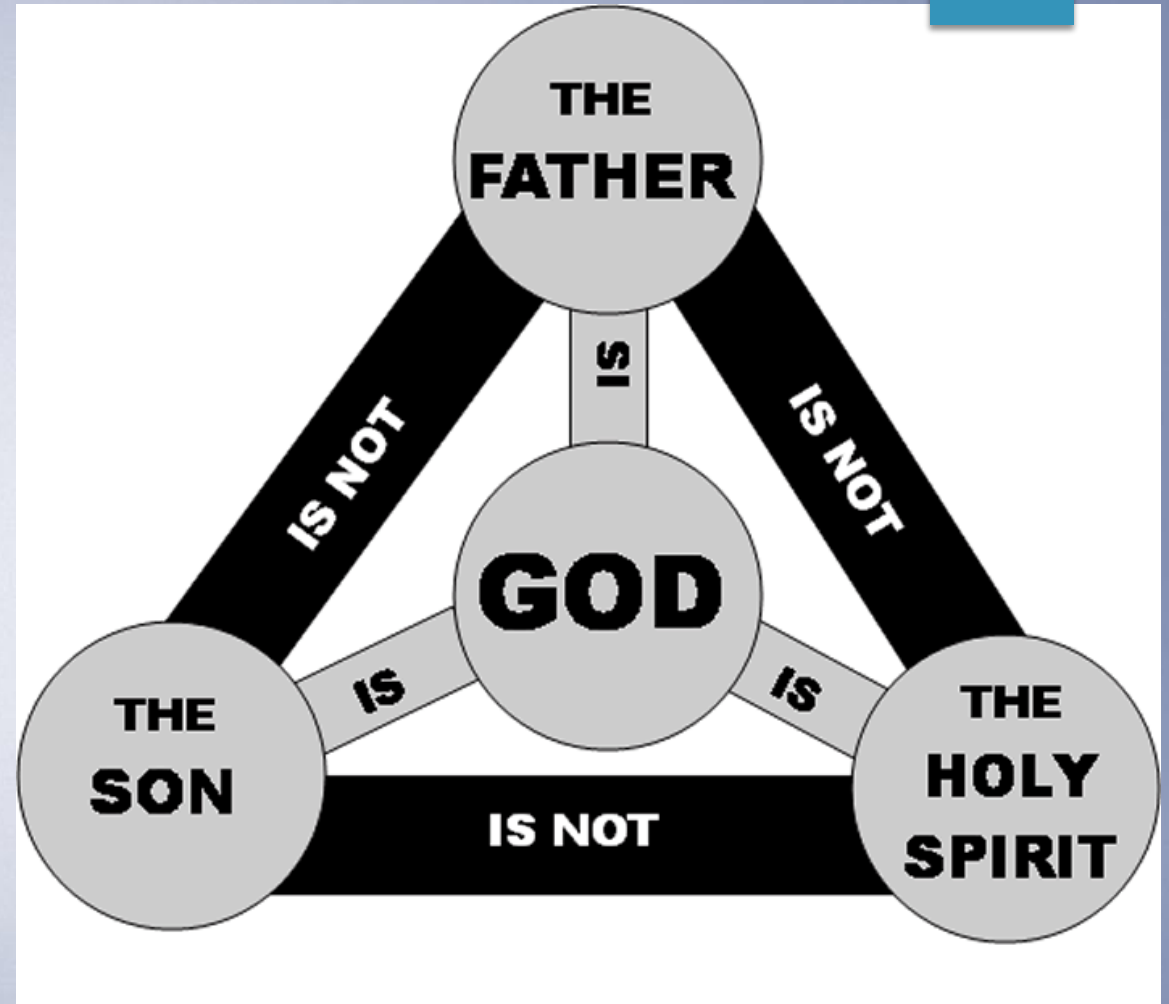
Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom
we exist?

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and
rose again?

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God and
makes Christ known in the world?

(Common Worship, Church of England)

Ancient Diagram



Tertullian: Our Trinitarian Vocabulary

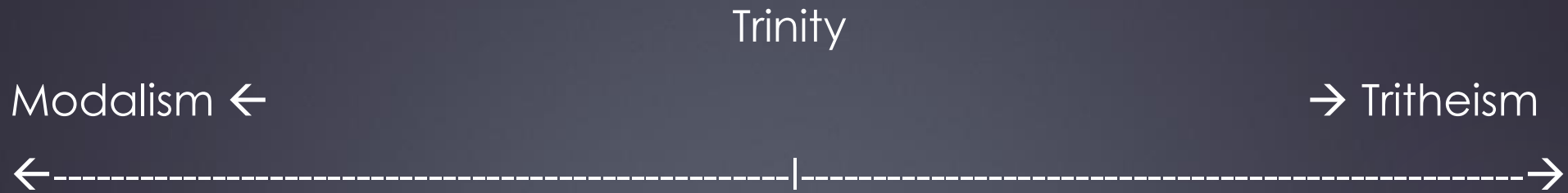


Trinitas: three-fold

Three Persona:
masks worn by
Roman actors (role)

One Substantia:
substance
(fundamental unity)

Where are you on this continuum?



West

One substance

Three persons

(God as having three roles)

East

Three subsistences

One essence

(God as close-knit community)

The Forming of the Nicene Creed: Orthodoxy (right belief) through Church Councils



312 Christianity becomes official religion of Roman Empire

325 Council of Nicea:
Person of Christ

381-382 Constantinople:
Nature of Holy Spirit

451 Council of Chalcedon:
Nicene Creed authorised
Athanasian Creed finalised

Justification and Sanctification

Martin Luther:

‘We are simultaneously justified and sinful’

John Wesley - sought ‘entire sanctification’:

‘Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect’

(Matthew 5:28)

Justification:

God's gracious forgiveness of sins that is received by *faith* alone

1. Justification and being made Righteous: different translations of the same Greek word
2. Justification – by Grace (gift) through Faith (a response)
3. Faith – an act of personal trust, not of assent:
'Everything depends upon faith. The person who does not have faith is like someone who has to cross the sea, but is so frightened that he cannot trust the ship. And so he stays where he is, and is never saved, because he will not get on board and cross over.' (Luther)
4. Justification is at the centre of Reformation teaching
5. Doctrines of Justification and Sanctification were deep issue of contention between Reformers and the Catholic Church

Sanctification:

the process of growth in Christian love

1. Sanctification = to make holy

Migliore: becoming 'conformed to the image of Christ by the working of the holy Spirit in our lives'

'And all of us with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.' (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Romans 12:2, translation by J.B. Phillips:

'Do not let the world squeeze you into its mould'

2. Sanctification as a Gift from God *and* as a human Calling

3. Justification + Sanctification = "the double grace" (Calvin):

'We are justified or forgiven in Christ and thus reconciled to God, *and* we are sanctified by Christ's Spirit so that we might cultivate a new life in conformity with Christ.' (Migliore)

The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (1999)

made by Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation:

“By grace alone, in faith in Christ’s saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping and calling us to good works.”

Justification

God accepting me

How God looks on me

My status

My relationship with God

Christ for me on the cross

In Christ we are accepted
and redeemed by God
(Ephesians 1:7)

Sanctification

God changing me

What God does in me

My state

My actual condition

Christ in me by the Spirit

In Christ we are made new
(2 Corinthians 5:17)



The Gospel

ESTABLISHING GOOD FOUNDATIONS