

SABELLIANISM

The Development of the Dogma of the Trinity

2. HERETICAL PATHS

Having looked at orthodox reflections on the Trinity in the first-third centuries, which nonetheless at times fell into problematic conceptions, we now turn to look at reflections that were recognized at the time to be wrong paths.

EARLY FAILURES

- Docetism
 - Gnostics
 - The problem of the gods
- Adoptionism
 - Ebionites
 - The problem of Hercules

ONTOLOGICAL VS. MORAL CHRISTOLOGIES

MONARCHIANISM

- Dynamic Monarchianism
 - Examples
 - Theodotus, Asclepiodatus, Artemas in Rome
 - Paul of Samosata, bishop of Antioch
 - Condemned by a council in Antioch in 268
 - Common outlook
 - Son and Spirit are names for Jesus and the grace of the apostles
 - Son and Spirit are not entities, at least not divine entities
 - Jesus was a mere man who was made equal to the Father and thus called Son
- Modalist Monarchianism
 - Examples
 - Noetus of Smyrna
 - Praxeas of Rome
 - Sabellius
 - Common outlook
 - God is one; what is experienced and Father, Son, and Spirit are the one God
 - There are no numerical distinctions in God
 - The Father, Son, and Spirit are different names for God
 - They all refer to the one God
 - They are different ways in which we see God.
 - They are different *prosopa* or masks

3. CREEDS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE CREED OF CONSTANTINOPLE (REDACTED TO A POSSIBLE PRE-4TH CENTURY FORM)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, ...
Through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead ...
We believe in the Holy Spirit
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.