

Diagram #1

TRINITARIAN ONENESS

Distinction ← **Dialectic** → Oneness
Tension and balance

Multiplicity, plurality, complexity
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

co-equal, co-essential, co-eternal

Jesus declared:

"I and the Father are one" (Jn. 10:30).

"I AM way, truth, life" (Jn. 14:6; cf. Jn. 4:26; 6:35,48; 8:12,48; 11:25)

Jewish leaders rejected as blasphemy against monad God.

Early Christians forced to consider how such a oneness could be explained.

Singularity, simplicity, unity

One God - Deut. 6:4; Mk. 12:29; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6;

I Tim. 2:5

Monotheism

Trinitarian Monotheism

Triunity - Trinity - three-in-one

Single integer

Mathematical oneness

Monad Monotheism

(singular, unextended unit of one)
Judaism, Islam, Jehovah's Witnesses

Monistic Monotheism

(singular, comprehensive extension in all things)
"Only one Person in the universe"
"God is all in all"
"God only"

Monarchianism

Impersonal primacy of God the Father

Modalism - Sabellianism

One God without distinction, revealed in 3 modes, manifestatins, forms or roles.

Unitarianism

Polytheism - many gods

Tritheism - three gods

Subordinationism

Son and Spirit subordinated to Father as second-class deities

Arianism (Arius-250-336)

Not co-equal, co-essential persons.

Son made by the Father.

Spirit proceeded from the Father.

Thus Son and Spirit are ontologically inferior to the Father, as demi-gods.

anomoousion - "not same being"

heteroousion - "different being"

Semi-Arians - Son and Spirit are *homoiousion* - "like or similar being"

Social Trinity

Divine committee

Ontological Trinity

Theophilus of Antioch (175)

Referred to Father, Son, Holy Spirit as *trias* - triad or threesomeness.

Tertullian of Carthage (160-230)

First to use Latin *trinitas* - triunity or trinity

What are the three?

Distinctions, realities, natures, particulars, persons?

Council of Nicea (325) identified as "three *personae*"

What is the one?

Substance, nature, essence, being?

Athanasius (296-373) explained that the three

Persons were essentially and consubstantially the "same being" - *homoousion*.

Council of Nicea (325) accepted *homoousion* as orthodox statement of God's oneness.

Essential Oneness

Operational Trinity

Administrative and Functional

Distinction

Paternity, filiation, procession

The Father sent the Son. the Son emptied Himself, the Spirit is joined with the spirit of man.

Gregory of Nazianzus (330-389)

Used Greek *perichoresis* to explain the interpenetration and coinherence of the persons of Trinity.

Mutual indwelling - "I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me" (Jn. 14:10,11)

Relational Oneness