

Trinity

Review of Key Concepts:

-Eternal Relation of Origin-Distinguishes how each Person is related to another (Father-Paternity, begotten of none, Son-Filiation, begotten of the Father, Spirit-Spiration, proceeding from Father and Son). This phrase is synonymous with “modes of subsistence” and “personal properties”.

-Subsistence-Another way of referring to a divine Person. The One, simple divine **essence** subsists or exists in three Persons.

-Eternal Generation-The Son of God has from eternity been generated (begotten-come from) from the Father's essence. Therefore, the Son has no beginning and possesses all the divine essence.

-Spiration-The Holy Spirit is spirated, eternally breathed out, by the Father and Son.

Lesson 6 - Spiration of the Holy Spirit in the early church

After the doctrine of the Son was “settled” the doctrine of the Holy Spirit came under attack. The early church fathers defended the deity of the Holy Spirit and argued that an error about the deity of Spirit was just as _____ as an error about the deity of the Son.

“Therefore, while thinking falsely of the Holy Spirit, they do not think truly even of the Son. For if they thought correctly of the Word, they would think soundly of the Spirit also, who proceeds from the Father, and belonging to the Son, is from Him given to the disciples and all who believe in Him. Nor, erring thus, do they so much as keep sound their faith in the Father. For those who ‘resist the Spirit’, as the great martyr Stephen said, deny also the Son. But those who deny the Son have not the Father.”-Athanasius

“Every man that sets aside the Spirit, that his faith in the Father and the Son will be useless, for he cannot even hold it without the presence of the Spirit. For he who does not believe in the Spirit does not believe in the Son, and he who has not believed in the Son does not believe in the Father...Such a one hath neither part nor lot in the true worship; for it is impossible to worship the Son, save by the Holy Ghost; impossible to call upon the Father, save by the Spirit of adoption.”-Basil

“If the Holy Spirit were a creature, we should have no participation of God in Him...If by participation in the Spirit, we are made ‘sharers of the divine nature’, we should be mad to say that the Spirit has a created nature and not the nature of God.”-Athanasius

God is One. Therefore, the Spirit cannot be properly understood apart from His _____ with and procession from the Father and Son.

“True worshippers, therefore, worship the Father; but in Spirit and Truth, confessing the Son and in Him the Spirit. For the Spirit is inseparable from the Son, as the Son is inseparable from the Father...Though the Holy Spirit is not called son, yet He is not outside the Son.”-Athanasius

“He is moreover said to be ‘of God;’ not indeed in the sense in which ‘all things are of God,’ but in the sense of proceeding out of God, not by generation, like the Son, but as Breath...conjoined as He is to the one Father through the one Son, and through Himself completing the adorable and blessed Trinity.”-Basil

“The Holy Spirit, when he proceeds from the Father and the Son, does not separate himself from the Father and does not separate himself from the Son”-Ambrose

“Holy Scripture calls Him (Holy Spirit) the Spirit of both...And it is proved by many other testimonies of the Divine Word, that the Spirit, who is specially called in the Trinity the Holy Spirit, is of the Father and the Son...we are taught that He proceeds from both...”-Augustine

(381AD)

“...And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceedeth from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets...”

In 589, at the council of _____ the Western church officially added “and the Son” (filioque) to the creed. Since, however this was not an ecumenical council the Eastern church has never acknowledged that addition as authoritative.

Protestant theologians see the importance of the filioque in terms of _____.

“It is because the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son that the Spirit of the Son can lead us to the Father.”-Barrett

“If He is not spirated from the Father and the Son’s divine nature, then how can He give to us poor, needy, and helpless sinners all the benefits of salvation the Father has in store for us, all the riches of redemption the Son has purchased for us?... ‘He who gives us God Himself must Himself be truly God.’”-ibid