

Doctrine of God- He is One

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Introduction

Colossians 2:9

Body

Ways of Looking at the Godhead

Atheism - The belief that there is no God

Agnosticism - The belief that the the existence of God is unknown, or unknowable

Pantheist - One who equates God with nature, or the forces of the universe

Polytheism - The belief that there is more than one God

Monotheism - The belief that there is one God

Trinitarianism - The belief that there are three distinct persons in the Godhead — God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit — but yet one God

We assert that the biblical teaching of the Godhead is that of Monotheism of the kind that professes that the fulness of the Godhead is in Jesus Christ.

Some Things to Keep in Mind

- Our understanding of who God is is extremely important
 - I Chronicles 28:9
 - Philippians 3:10

- False doctrines existed even in the Apostolic Age (i.e., gnosticism, montanism, etc.)
- God's Word is the only true and authoritative source of truth, including our understanding of the Godhead. History cannot let us know what is true and what is false.
- God always has a remnant reserved for Himself in every period of history
 - I Kings 19:14
 - I Kings 19:18
- The crowd is not always right
 - I Kings 18
 - I Kings 22
- It requires revelation from God to understand His Word
 - John 16:13
 - Matthew 16:15-17

Historical Teachings about the Godhead

Apostolic Age - The time of the Apostles

Second Century - A.D. 100 - A.D. 200

Clement of Rome - Bishop of Rome in the 90's.

Ignatius - Bishop of Antioch. He was martyred by being thrown to the lions

Polycarp - Bishop of Smyrna. At age 86 he was burned at the stake.

To sum up: During the second century there is no mention of a trinitarian idea of the Godhead. The only thing we see, not only in scripture, but also in the writings of the Post-Apostolic Age, is that of the Oneness of God.

Third Century - A.D. 200 - A.D. 300

Praxeas - Itinerant preacher and teacher

Noetus of Smyrna (in Asia Minor)

Epigonus of Rome

Cleomenes

Sabellius - presbyter of Pentapolis in North Africa

Tertullian of Carthage

Hippolytus - The first Anti-Pope

To sum up, Modalism, the idea that there is one person in the Godhead and that Jesus Christ is the fulness of the Godhead bodily, was the predominant doctrine of the Godhead during the third century. Trinitarianism has been introduced but is being resisted by the vast majority of the Christian world.

The Fourth Century - A.D. 300 - A.D. 400

Council of Nicea

Marcellus of Ancryra

Commodian the Poet

Priscillian

To sum up: In the Fourth Century we see the rise of Trinitarianism, and the raising of this doctrine to the place of church dogma. Modalists were declared to be heretics and were resisted at every juncture. We see also the skeleton upon which the Roman Catholic Church would build its