

Unpacking the Athanasian Creed

An Introduction for Lay Readers: SLIDE NOTES

SLIDE 2: ISAIAH 55:9

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways.”

SLIDE 3: Greek- οὐσία (Ousia) Latin- Substantia

BEING, ESSENCE SUBSTANCE: THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF A THING; WHAT MAKES SOMETHING WHAT IT IS.

SLIDE 4:

Divinity- The state or quality of being God. “God-ness.”

SLIDE 5: ATTRIBUTES OF DIVINITY

- *Uncreated*
- *Infinite*
- *Eternal*
- *Almighty*

NOTES: Do not divide the substance of God

SLIDE 6: DO NOT DIVIDE THE SUBSTANCE

NOTES: Do not worship 3 God's instead of One. (uncreated , infinite, eternal, almighty)

SLIDE 7: ATHANASIAN CREED, VERSE 4

*“We worship one God in Trinity, and the Trinity in unity; neither **confusing the persons**, nor **dividing the substance**.”*

SLIDE 8: Greek- ὑπόστασις (*hypostasis*) Latin- *Personae*

PERSON - a member of the Trinity

NOTES: Three separate ...who each share the same essence/substance. Jesus is not the father in another form.

SLIDE 9: THE LANGUAGE OF SCRIPTURE

- “The Father is **made of none**, nor created, nor begotten” (21).
- “The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created, but **begotten**” (22).
- “The Holy Ghost is of the Father and the Son; not made, nor created, nor begotten, but **proceeding**” (23).

NOTES: Begotten - the before and after is non - existent. Eternally begotten not made describes a relationship. First and last have no beginning and no end. 'Proceed' is scriptural language.

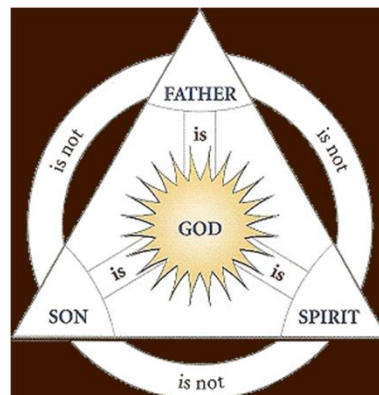
SLIDE 10: THE TRINITY

NOTES: Verse 25 & 26 refer to a co-eternal and co-equal existence together. No beginning or end and no source of origin...none greater than the other. Mutually submitting one to the other in an eternal dance of beauty, harmony, cohesion, locked in an eternal dance of love,

SLIDE 11: ἐκπορεύομαι (*ekporuomai*)- TO PROCEED

*t “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who **proceeds** from the Father, He will testify about Me.” JOHN 15:26*

NOTES:



SLIDE 12: ATHANASIAN CREED 25-26

“In this trinity there is no before or after, no greater or less; but all three persons are co-eternal together, and co-equal.”

SLIDE 13: THE ATHANASIAN CREED 30-32

*“Now the right Faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is both God and man. **He is God, of the Substance of the Father**, begotten before the worlds; and **he is Man, of the Substance of his mother**, born in the world. Perfect God and perfect man...”*

SLIDE 14: ATHANASIUS 296-373

“What hasn’t been assumed hasn’t been redeemed.” ~ ATHENASIUS OF ALEXANDRIA

NOTES: In order for God to redeem humanity Jesus the eternal word of God had to assume all of our humanity without sin. After the Council of Nicea and Constantinople they had to talk about how Jesus could have a human and divine nature.

SLIDE 15: APOLLONARIS OF LYODICIA

- *He taught that Jesus had a body that was human and a mind that was the Logos of God.*
- *However, to be human is to be “of reasoning soul and human flesh subsisting.”*

NOTES: Champion of one substance but thought his mind was the word of God. His teachings were deemed heretical. Line 32- perfect man, "have a reasoning soul and human flesh subsisting"

SLIDE 16: NESTORIANISM

A STRICT LINE OF DIVINE BETWEEN JESUS' DIVINE NATURE AND HUMAN NATURE

NOTES: 5th century monk named Nestorius. He wasn't comfortable with defining Mary as the Mother of God. You end up with a split personality of Jesus if you believe this. Verse 36 refutes this...Jesus is not 2 persons.

SLIDE 17: MONOPHYSTICISM (problem with this)

*THE DIVINE AND HUMAN NATURES OF CHRIST COME TOGETHER
TO FORM A NEW NATURE.*

NOTES:

Jesus had to be both divine and human to save us, but distinct of each. Incarnation (Christ nature)- no beginning and no ending, touching our timeline making all humanity elevated.

SLIDE 18: ATHANSIAN CREED

“He is one, certainly not by the blending of his essence, but by the unity of his person.”

NOTES:

The first half of the Athanasian Creed expresses in very clear terms the Trinity. The second half defines the person of Christ's dual nature- Divine/ Fully God; Fully Human.

It wasn't written by St. Athanasius but would have affirmed his teachings. It didn't come together like the Nicene Creed but more like the Apostle's Creed and was probably used more in one church.