

Credo in unum Deum

/ Patrem omnipotentem / factorem
caeli et terrae / visibilem omnium et
inuisibilem / Et in unum Dominum
Iesum Christum / Filium Dei
unigenitum / et ex Patre natum / ante omnia saecula /
Deum de Deo / lumen de lumine / Deum uerum de
Deo uero / genitum / non factum / consubstantialem
Patri: per quem omnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos
homines et propter nostram salutem descendit de
caelis. Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria
Virgine / et homo factus est. Crucifixus etiam pro
nobis sub Pontio Pilato: passus et sepultus est / et
resurrexit tertia die / secundum Scripturas / et ascendit
in caelum / sedet ad dexteram Patris. Et iterum
uenturus est cum gloria / iudicare uiuos et mortuos /
cuius regni non erit finis. Et in Spiritum Sanctum /
Dominum et uiuificantem: qui ex Patre Filioque
procedit. Qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et
conglorificatur: qui locutus est per prophetas. Et unam
/ sanctam / catholicam et apostolicam Ecclesiam.
Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum.
Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum / et uitam
uenturi saeculi. Amen.

Ibelieve in one God

/ the Father Almighty / maker of
heauen and earth / and of all things
uisible and inuisible. And in one Lord
Iesus Christ / the only begotten Son
of God / and born of the Father before all ages. God of
God / light of light / true God of true God. Begotten not
made / consubstantial to the Father / by whom all
things were made. Who for us men and for our
saluation came down from heauen. And was incarnate
of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary and was
made man: was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate / suffered and was buried: and the third day rose
again according to the Scriptures. And ascended into
heauen / sits at the right hand of the Father / and shall
come again with glory to iudge the liuing and the dead /
of whose Kingdom there shall be no end. And I believe
in the Holy Spirit / the Lord and Giver of life / who
proceeds from the Father and the Son / who together
with the Father and the Son is to be adored and
glorified / who spoke by the Prophets. And one holy /
catholic / and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism
for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection
of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Unpacking the Nicene Creed

An Introduction for Lay Readers



NICENE CREED

I believe in **one God**, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages. **God from God, Light from Light, true
God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;**
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, and rose again on the
third day 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 and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life,
**who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the
Son is adored and glorified,** who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in **One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.**
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN.



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“God from God, light from light, very God of
very God, of ONE SUBSTANCE
WITH THE FATHER, through whom
all things were made.”

The Nicene Creed

“And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life
who proceedeth from the Father [and the Son];
who with the Father and the Son together is worship
and glorified. Who spake by the prophets...”

- The Nicene Creed

“In the beginning was the WORD
And the WORD was with God and the WORD
was God

He was in the beginning with God
All things came into being through him and without
him not one thing came into being that has come
into being.

... And the WORD was made flesh and dwelt
among us.”

-John 1:1-4; 14

“In the beginning was the LOGOS
And the LOGOS was with God and the
LOGOS was God

He was in the beginning with God
All things came into being through him and without
him not one thing came into being that has come
into being.

... And the LOGOS was made flesh and dwelt
among us.”

-John 1:1-4; 14

What exactly is the relationship
between God, the Father, and Jesus,
the Word?

Justin Martyr

circa 100-160 AD

- God the Father is transcendent divinity.
- Jesus, the Word is imminent divinity.
- Two Gods "in number but not in will."





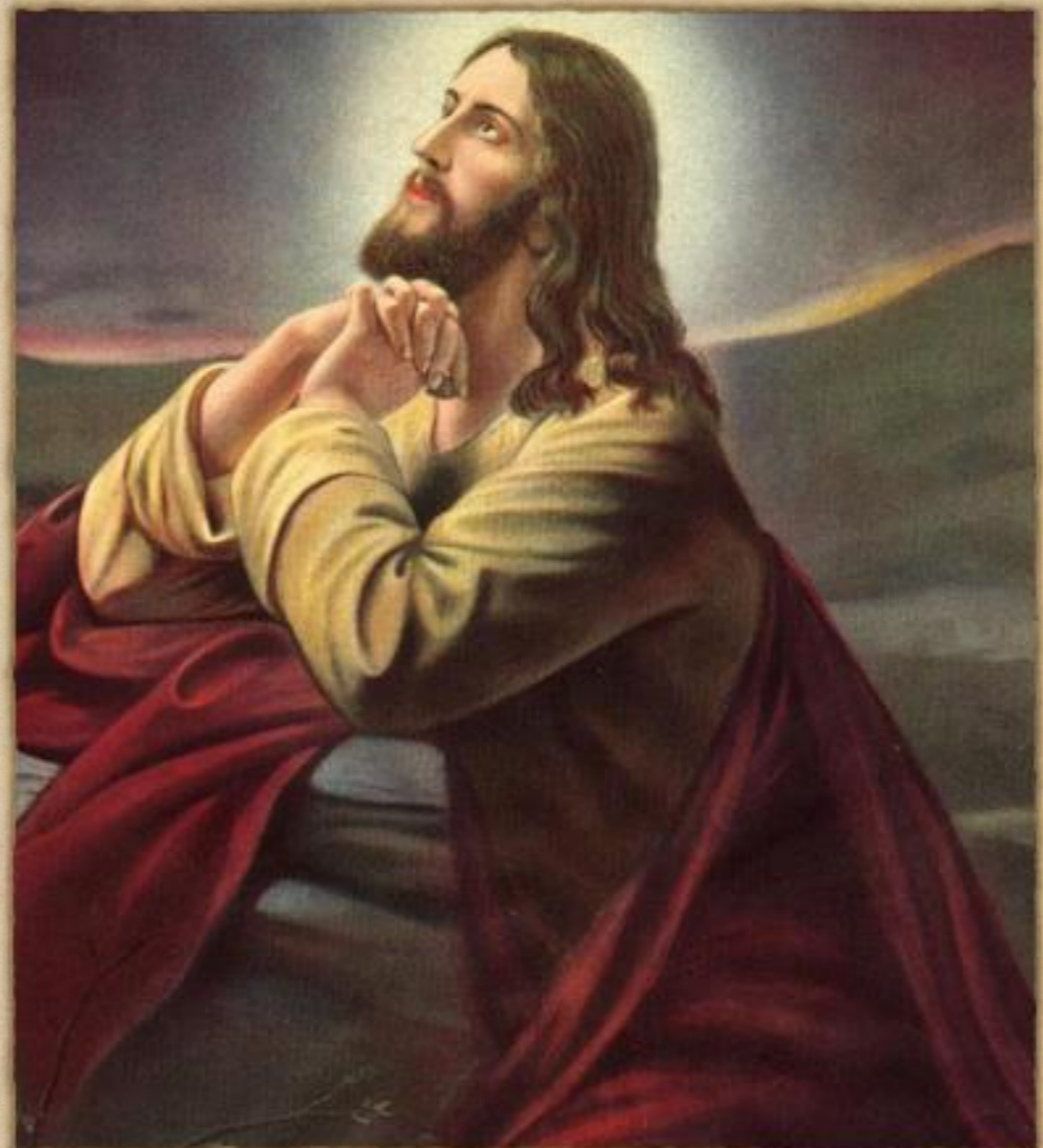
So are there **TWO** Gods?
Ditheism



Modalism
or Sabellianism

The Problem with Modalism

- In the NT, Jesus prays to his Father (Jn. 11:41-42) and hears his Father speak (Jn. 12:28; Mk. 1:11).
- Jesus is specifically said to have obeyed his Father's will (Jn. 6:38; Mt. 26:39).
- Jesus feels his Father's absence on the cross, saying, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mk. 15:34).



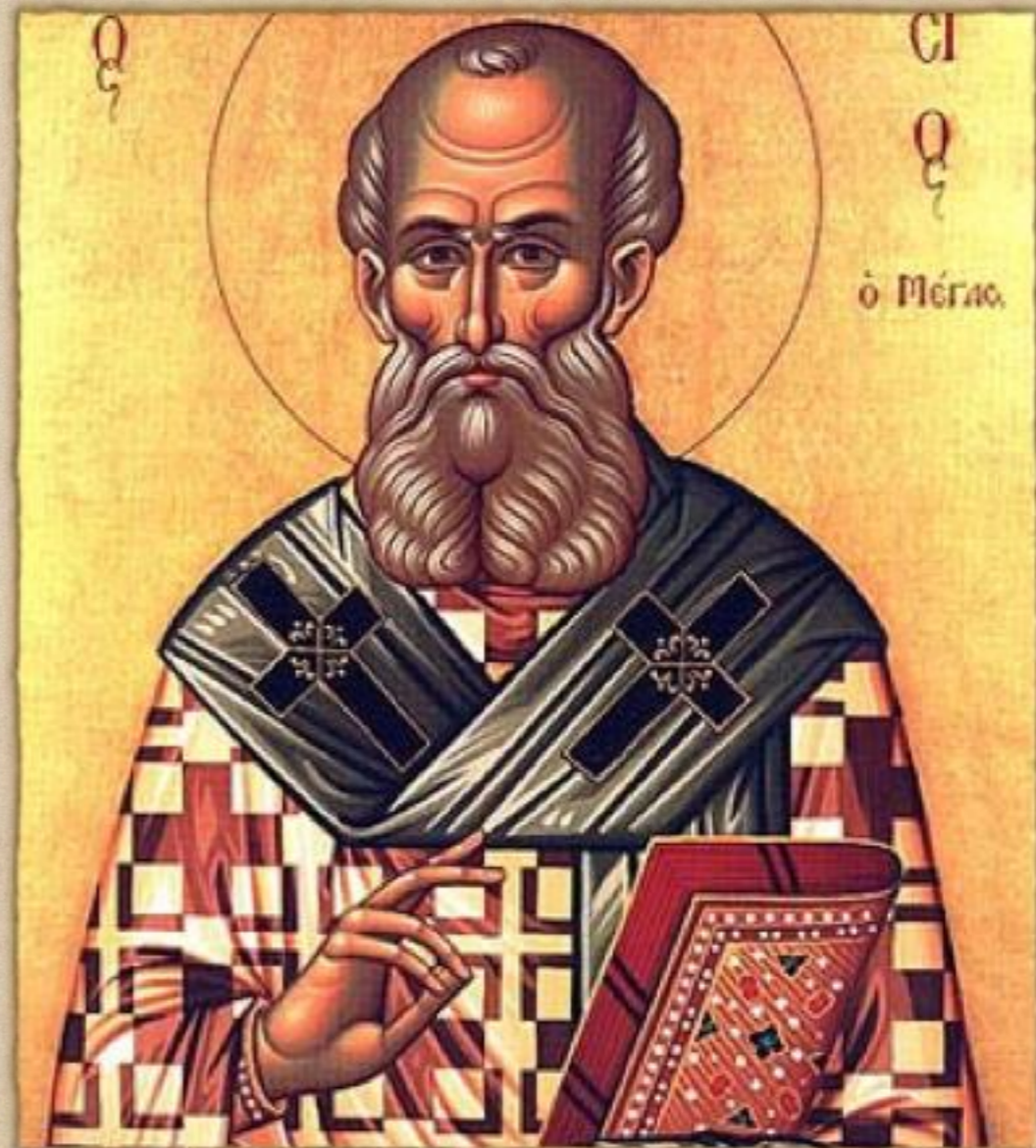
Arius and Arianism



- "There was when he was not."
- "“Before the Word was begotten, or created, or defined, or established, he did not exist. ... The Son has a beginning but God has no beginning.”"

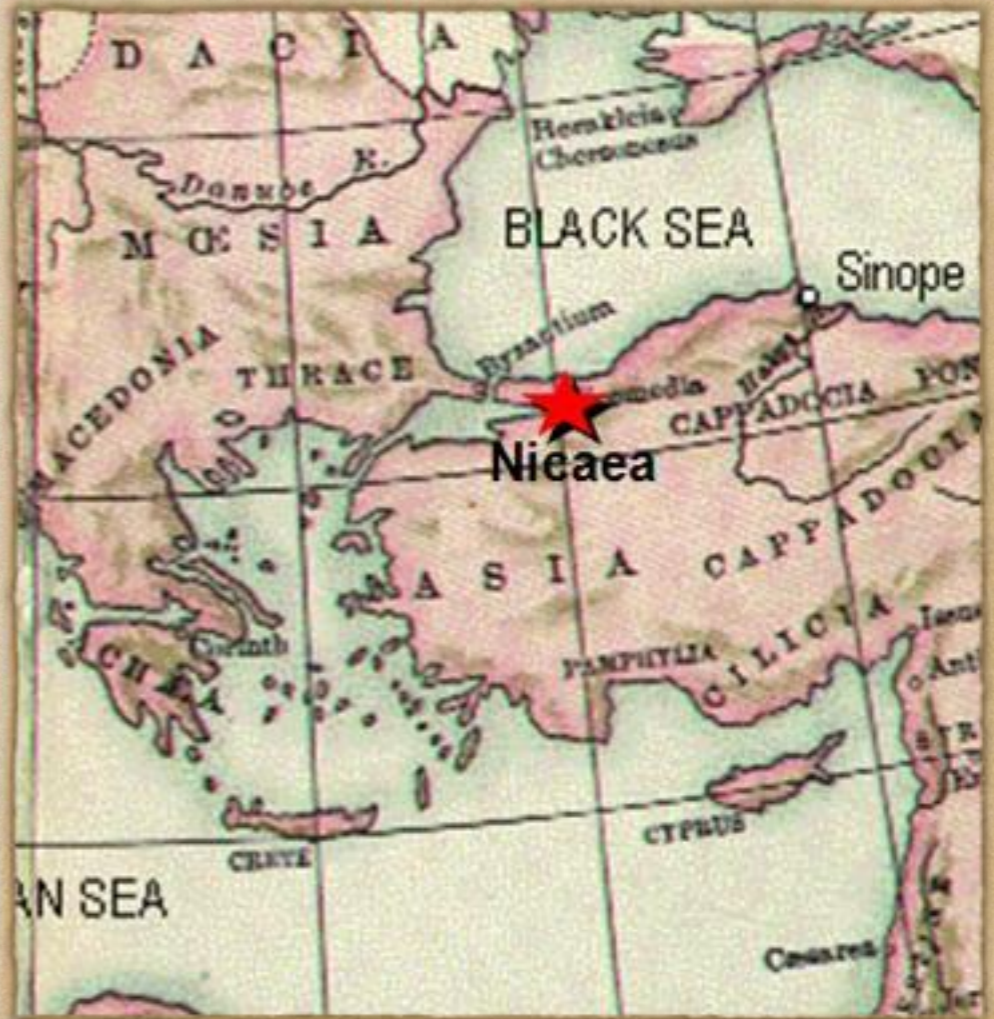
Alexander of Alexandria

- “Always a God, always a Son.”
- “with the Father co-exists the Son unbegotten, ever-begotten, begotten without begetting”
- “God neither precedes the Son in aspect or in a moment of time.”
- “Always a God, always a Son, the Son being from God himself.”





Constantine the Great
Emperor of Rome (A.D. 272-337)



Factions in the Council

- Small, pro-Arian minority.
- Small, pro-Alexandrian minority.
- Even smaller modalist minority.
- The clueless



““[I]t is not possible to know exactly how the Council proceeded; there are no records of the debates, and much of the historical evidence that does exist glosses over the disagreements. The outcomes were influenced not only by theological argument but also by the interventions of the Emperor, the interplay of the local interests represented, and personal relationships, among other things”.”

-Alan Hayes

ὁμοούσιος Homousios

- Homo- the same
- Ousios- Substance, Essence or Being
- Homousios means- “of the same essence,” “of one being,” “of one substance,” or “consubstantial”



Athanasius of Alexandria

Champion of Nicene
Theology

“We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten of the Father, that is, from the substance of the Father, God of God, light of light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one substance [ὁμοούσιος] with the Father, through whom all things were made, both in heaven and on earth, who for us humans and for our salvation descended and became incarnate, becoming human, suffered and rose again on the third day, ascended to the heavens, and will come to judge the living and the dead.

And in the Holy Spirit.”

“But those who say that there was when He was not, and that before being begotten He was not, or that He came from that which is not, or that the Son of God is of a different substance [ὑπόστασις] or essence [οὐσία], or that He is created, or mutable, these the catholic church anathematizes.”

The Aftermath of the
Council



The Macedonians
Those who Fight against the Holy Spirit

Council of Constantinople (A.D. 381)

- Reaffirms the doctrine of Nicaea regarding the divinity of the Son.
- Adds that the same ought to be said about the Holy Spirit.



“I believe in the Holy Spirit...”



- “The Lord and giver of life.”
- “Who proceedeth from the Father.”
- “Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified.”
- “Who spake by the prophets.”

References & Suggested Readings

BOOKS

- 1. A History of Christianity by Owen Chadwick
- 2. The Story of Christianity by Justo Gonzalez
- 3. An Introduction to the Christian Faith by Colin Gunton

WEBSITE RESOURCES

- 1. Apostle's Creed- <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01629a.htm>
- 2. Nicene Creed- <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11049a.htm>
- 3. Athanasian Creed- <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/02033b.htm>
- 4. Catholic Encyclopedia called "New Advent." <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/>