

Sabelius

Active in Rome (~198-220), associated with heresy of Sabelianism.

Sabelianism

Heresy of Sabelius, see patripassianism.

Soteriology

The study of salvation

Substance

Basically the English version of ousia

Tertullian, Quintus Septimus Florens (~160 - ~220)

Born in Carthage - wrote in Latin, invented word "trinity" (trinitas) as an anti-monarchian device. Wrote Apologetics, anti-heretical (anti-Gnostic) stuff, practical ethics. e.g. Apoligeticus (~197) to his Roman governor: showed Christians' loyalty to the empire. Anti- infant baptism. Flirted with Montanism (~200). Often regarded as the founder of RC theology. Early mention of Creation ex nihilo in Contra Hermogenes(-?).

Theotokos

lit. God-Bearer; used of Mary.

Trinity

One God in three persons (hypostases), joined in hypostatic union. Word first used by Tertullian. Eastern approach, after Cappadocian Fathers: consider orexperience of the Three. Western Augustinian approach: love within the Godhead. Some have distinguished an economic trinity (Trinity as revealed by purpose in the world) and essential trinity – Trinity as it actually is. The Cappadocian Fathers held that these are the same (since God is Truth), but also that God is ultimately mystery.

Christology - Some useful terms

Adoptionism

That Jesus was born as an ordinary man, and was later raised to divine sonship - usually at baptism

Alexandrian

Western school of theology. With Antiochene thought, one of two responses to Arianism. Word-Flesh theology. Accused by Antiochenes of teaching a "blended natures" Christology. Important figures: Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Athanasius.

Anhypostatic

lit. Not-hypostatic; not personal. Used by Cyril and others in describing the human nature of Jesus as not having a personal centre.

Antiochene

Eastern school of theology. With Alexandrian thought, one of two responses to Arianism. Pioneered by Diodore of Tarsus (~330–94). Stressed impassibility of God; Word-Man theology: Jesus' human nature suffered at the cross; the Logos did not – although his human nature was received into heaven by virtue of its obedience and union with the divine nature. Accused by Alexandrians of teaching a "two-sons" Christology. Important figures: Nestorius, Theodore, John Chrysostom

Apollinarianism

Heretical doctrine after Apollinaris; that Jesus' soul was divine rather than human, only his body was truly human. Crudely; God in Jesus' head.

Apollinaris (-390)

Founder of Apollinarianism, (heretical) Follower of Athanasius.

Apophatic

Tradition of preserving the mystery of God by stressing divine unknowability. "Negative theology"

Aquinas, Thomas (1225-74)

Italian, Scholar at Paris University. Described the God-Man unity in Jesus as a fourth category of unity, different from any other kind. Showed that doing maths like $1+1=2$ doesn't apply, as mathematically God is beyond numbers: (numberlessness)+1=1; our unknowing of God disables the paradox.

Arianism

- 1) That only God the Father is divine; i.e. that Christ is a creation
- 2) That Jesus was of similar (but not identical) substance as the Father; there was when he was not.

Arius (c. 274-337)

Priest who invented Arianism.

Athanasius of Alexandria(?-373AD)

Probably didn't write eponymous creed. Defender of Trinitarian orthodoxy - staunchly anti-Arianist. Spent many years in exile due to his (anti-Arianism) conduct being unbecoming of a Bishop. Argued for "hypostatic union" in De Incarnation. Wrote letters to Egyptian churches: Easter 367 letter has first listing of NT canon. Wrote Life of St. Anthony.

Principal argument against Arianism - if Jesus is only a creature, he cannot redeem other creatures. God saves. Jesus Saves. Jesus is God.

Augustine, (St), of Hippo (396-430)

Understood trinity as love within the Godhead. Engaged in debates of the time, particularly anti-Pelagian.

Basil of Caesarea (~329-379)

Cappadocian Father and political leader; friend of Gregory of Nazianzus, brother of Gregory of Nyssa. Makes first recorded use of phrase "Three Hypostases in One Ousia" (but he probably borrowed it)

Cappadocian Fathers (C4)

Developed Eastern understanding of the Trinity; the three persons relating to our experience of them. Defended orthodoxy against Arianism. Three figures:

- * Basil of Caesarea - political leader
- * Gregory of Nazianzus, on good terms with Basil
- * Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's brother

Council(s) of Constantinople (381,553,680)

Second Ecumenical Church Council (381) agreed on Nicene creed proposed at Council of Nicea. Successive councils attempted to heal rift with monophysites (553), then made anti-monophysite statement (680)

Council of Chalcedon (451)

Fourth Ecumenical Church Council. Denounced Eutychianism; produced Chalcedonian definition: that Jesus Christ was one divine person in two

Montanism

Early "charismatic", prophetic movement with apocalyptic (millennial) angle. Pious and ascetic (which attracted Tertullian), Anti second-marriage. Branded heretical by pope.

Nestorianism

(Alexandrian suspicion of) heresy of separating the two natures of Christ. Rebuttal by Nestorius: Christ is indivisible but twofold (God & human); Christ is "the common name of the two natures."

Nestorius (~428-~451)

Antiochene, Patriarch of Constantinople, accused by Cyril of Alexandria of heresy (see Nestorianism). Reasoned that if the two natures were wholly separate, the divine nature need not suffer. Did not accept theotokos as valid – preferred christotokos.

Origen (~185-~254)

Born in Alexandria, learned asceticism, studied in neoplatonic environment. Produced the Hexapla; - OT parallels between 6 different versions. Influential apologetic works include Contra Celsum. Believed in eternal generation of the Son from the Father, thought of Jesus as this sinless Logos unified with a human body.

Ousia

Nature, substance. The oneness of the Trinity – distinguished from the hypostasis, the threeness by the early Church Fathers. The phrase "Three Hypostases in One Ousia", first found in Basil, makes plain this distinction. Both ousia and hypostasis were previously used in the sense simply of "being." Much confusion was caused between East and West as hypostasis, not ousia, is the etymological equivalent of substantia, so a phrase like "of one substance" did not at first transliterate properly.

Patrispassianism

lit. Father-suffering; That God the Father was incarnate in Jesus Also known as Modalist Monarchianism and Sabellianism. Arose out of strong emphasis on monotheism. Refuted by Origen, Tertullian

Pelagianism (after Pelagius)

That we are justified by works. The only British heresy! Opposed by Augustine.

Perichoresis

The mutual interpenetration of the three persons of the Trinity; their existence as a community of being

Justin Martyr (~100-~163)

Born a gentile in Samaria. A converted philosopher. Writings: apologies to Emperor Antonius Pius & Marcus Aurelius defended Christianity against charges of atheism, immorality. Explained in Dialogue with Trypho (a Jew) how Jesus was the Messiah. Believed everyone had a little bit of Logos (=reason) in them, particularly the great prophets and philosophers. He also comments on baptismal and Eucharistic belief and praxis.

Kenosis

"Emptying" – of Christ in the incarnation. C17 debate – did Christ use his divine attributes secretly (krypsis) or abstain from using them (kenosis)? Mid C19, Thomasius argued for "emptying" (Phil 2:6) as part of the incarnation. Late 19th C debate- Thommasius, Gore etc. argued for kenosis; this time, more strongly in that Christ abandoned (some of) his divine attributes in the incarnation.

Marcion

Gnostic heretic identified demiurge with Hebrew God.

Memorialism

Eucharistic theory associated with Zwingli (Swiss reformer); the bread and wine remain unchanged, but cause us to remember Christ, prompt us to feed on Him through faith.

Modalism

Anti-Trinitarian heresy. That God reveals himself in different ways - usually 3 ways.

Monarchianism

The pre-eminence of the Father over the other persons of the Trinity. A 3rd C development of 2nd C heresies of ebionitism and docetism. Arising from a strong monotheism, two forms existed: Modalist (see patripassianism) and Dynamic – a form of adoptionism whereby Jesus was different from other men only by the degree of indwelling of the divine ousia.

Monophysitism

lit. One-Nature; that Jesus had only one nature. Present in some form in Cyril of Alexandria's polemic against Nestorius. Repudiated at Council of Chalcedon. This caused split with Egyptian and Syrian churches. The Coptic church still holds this view.

natures, one human and one divine. Caused schism with the monophysite Egyptian and Syrian churches.

Council of Ephesus (431)

Third Ecumenical Church Council. Debated Nestorian issue.

Council(s) of Nicea (325, 787)

First Ecumenical Church Council (325) proposed "Nicene" creed, which was later accepted at Council of Constantinople.

Constantine (274-337)

Called council of Nicea that condemned Arius. Later accepted Arius and exiled Athanasius! Developed Christian-based legal system. Introduced the cross as a symbol of Christianity (crucifixions were banned). Accused of murdering some family members. Received deathbed baptism (as was the custom!)

Chrysostom, John (~347-)

Antiochene. Name is nickname - "Golden-mouthed." Known as greatest preacher ever. Lived under monastic rule at home in order to look after his widowed mother. Literalist. Bishop of Constantinople

Cyril of Alexandria (375-444)

Made bishop in 412. Reckoned by Harnack to be a monophysitist. Famous for polemic with Nestorius. Cyril's cause was championed by Eutyches. Pointed out that if Nestorius was right in that Christ's two natures were entirely separate, then only the human nature suffered, and we would be redeemed merely by the suffering of a human.

Demiurge

In Platonism, a "craftsman" god, responsible for creation. In gnosticism, the "ignorant and presumptuous" deity in dualism with the transcendent God. Identified with Yahweh by Maricon et al.

Docetism

That Jesus only seemed to be human-divine being "in disguise", a "hologram"

Ebionitism (Ebionism)

That Jesus was the entirely human son of Joseph and Mary. A quickly rejected heresy.

Ebionitis

Set date of Christmas for Eastern church same as Western. Exiled due to political manoeuvrings. His flock protested and got temporary reprieve from

Empress. Died after being forced on long march. Famous for saying "Jesus drank his own blood" (last supper) .

Enhypostatic

A description of the human nature of Jesus: that his personhood derived from the Logos hypostasis. Associated with Leontius; and later, Maximum the confessor.

Eutyches (~378–454)

A monk who had championed and misrepresented the Alexandrian tradition (in Eutychianism), taking on the mantle of Cyril of Alexandria.

Eutychianism (C5)

That Jesus' two natures were assimilated, such that his human nature was deified by its union with his divine nature, forming a new hybrid (theanthropic) nature.

Gnosticism

1) Secret knowledge. Matter is bad, spirit is good therefore the physical world was not created by God. Belief that world was created by a Demiurge (according to Marcion, the Hebrew God), not God, the One. The One generates attributes like goodness, Logos, etc.

2) That Jesus was not God, but an emanation from the Godhead

Many different beliefs within Gnosticism: e.g.

Docetic - Denial of actual humanity of Christ (see Docetism)

Cerinthian - Separating "Christ" from Jesus the man.

The Gospel of John was used by Gnostics, probably leading to John's refutation in 1 John 4:2

Gregory of Nazianzus (~329–90)

Cappadocian Father, friend of Basil.

Gregory of Nyssa (335–95)

Cappadocian Father, brother of Basil

Harnack, Adolf von (C19,20)

Scholar who argued that dogma is due only to the specific location of Christianity within a Hebrew-Greek mindset. "The gospel, as Jesus proclaimed it, has to do with the Father only and not the Son." Christological debate arose out of the Greek propensity for the abstract.

Hippolytus

Anti-gnostic, borrowing from Irenaeus. His Apostolic Tradition provides a picture of Roman church order and worship about ~200: Baptism, Eucharist, Ordination etc. Also wrote a commentary on Daniel; the oldest extant biblical commentary.

Homoousios

Of the same being, substance (as used in Nicene creed)

Homoiousios

Of like being, substance.

Hypostasis (sing.)

Person - One of the members of the Trinity. (Singular of hypostases, the persons of the Trinity).

Hypostatic Union

The mode of union of the three persons (hypostases) of the Trinity. See also anhypostatic, enhypostatic.

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch (-110-5)

Eager martyr. Asked the church not to intervene for him. Wrote letters stressing unity through Eucharist.

Impassible

Incapable of suffering

Immutable

Unchangeable

Irenaeus

Bishop of Lyon. Claimed to have known Polycarp – and hence had connexion with the Apostles. Wrote Against Heresies ~185. Wrote 5 books of anti-gnosticism:

* Historical (and a statement of true faith)

* Philosophical critique

* Scriptural critique

* Answers from the words of Christ

* Vindication of the resurrection

In writing this, he is constructive with regards to the episcopate, theological tradition, etc. Also important: his theory of recapitulation.