

The Apostles' Creed



The Apostles' Creed

- Intro to the Creed Itself
- God the Father
- God the Son (part 1)

- NOTE:** Keeping pace with last week's announcement that the Church of England was working on removing "God as Father" language for not being gender-neutral... scientists this week issued a list of 24 terms that are harmful enough to require being banned in common English usage—including the words "father" and "mother" (which should be replaced with the more inoffensively neutral terms "sperm donor" and "egg donor")

- Again, "neuter" doesn't always equate with "neutral"—and what do we lose by seeing a father (or mother) as primarily only a "genetic donor"?

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NOW EVEN GOD COULD BE GOING GENDER NEUTRAL

Church of England to debate whether to stop referring to the Almighty as 'He'

By Martin Beckford
 GOD may be referred to in 'non-gendered' terms in Church of England services, it emerged last night. Breaking with centuries of tradition, Anglican bishops are preparing to launch a major project on gendered language this spring. It has been a long time in the making, but the move is seen as a landmark. The plan is to use gender-neutral terms for God in the prayer book, the Lord's Prayer and the church's governing body, the General Synod. The move would be the first of its kind in the church's history. The decision was revealed yesterday in a question to the Science Committee, a panel that develops the wording used for church services. Joanna

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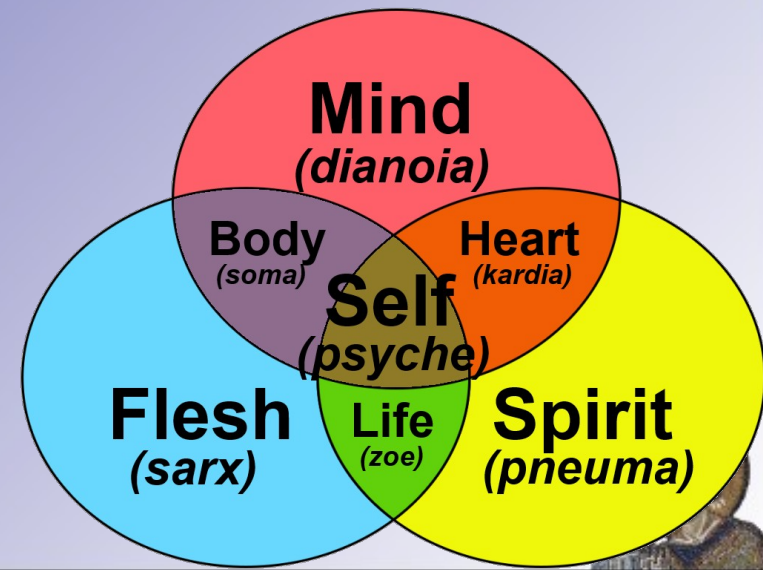
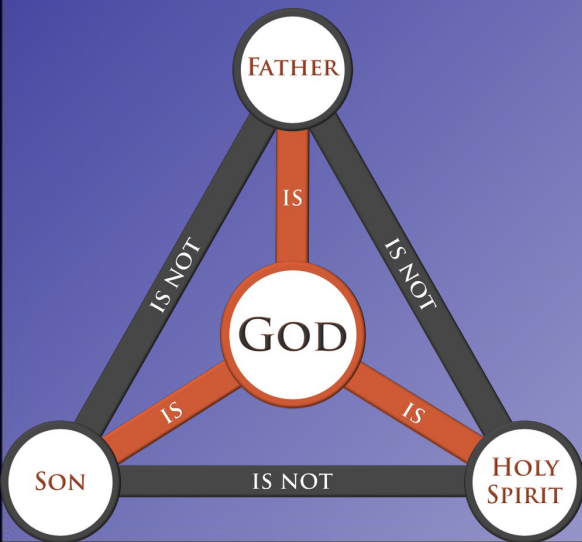
LIST OF 'HARMFUL TERMS' SCIENTISTS WANT TO BAN

Term to be Banned	Replacement Term
Survival of the fittest	Natural selection
Invasive	Nuisance species
Male/Female	Sperm-producing/egg-producing
Gender	Sex



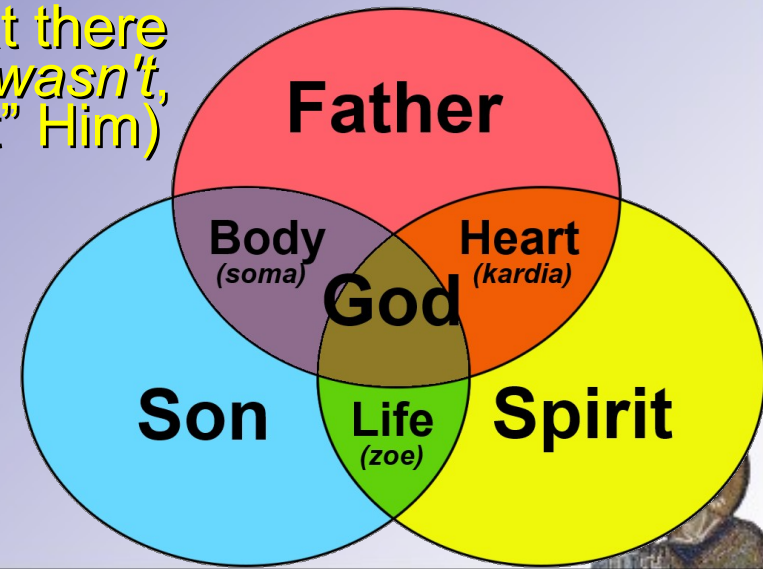
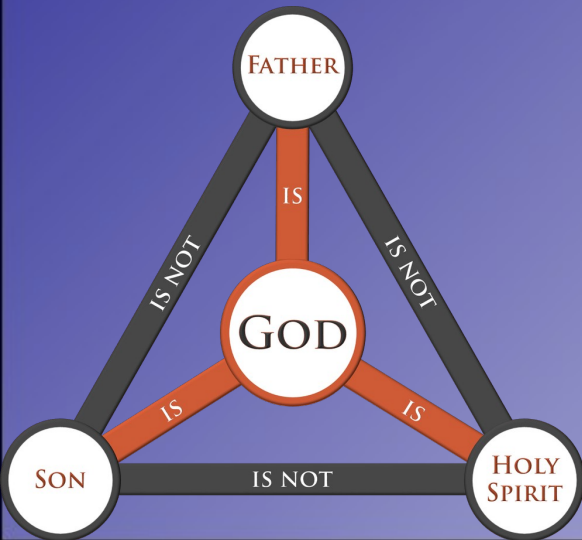
God the Son

- “We believe in... Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord...”
 - We've already talked about Christ as the Son when we talked about the Trinity
 - We even talked about how the Trinity was at least a smidgey bit like how the Greeks saw living beings



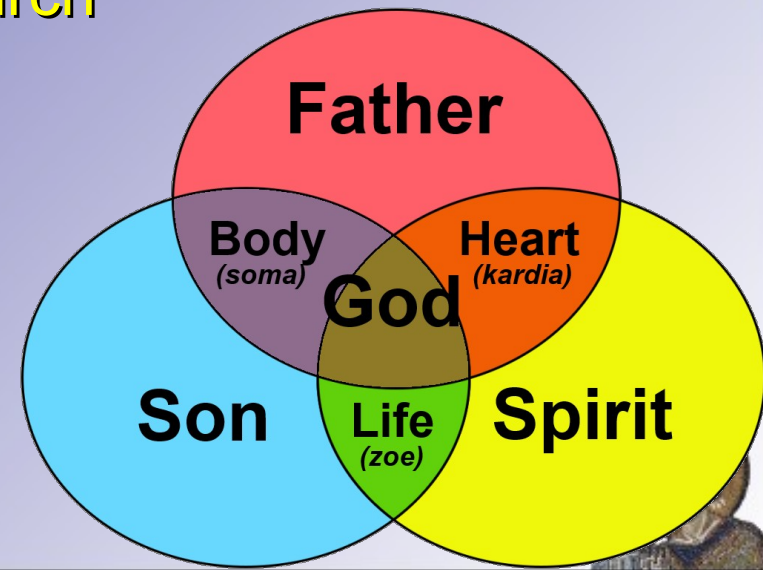
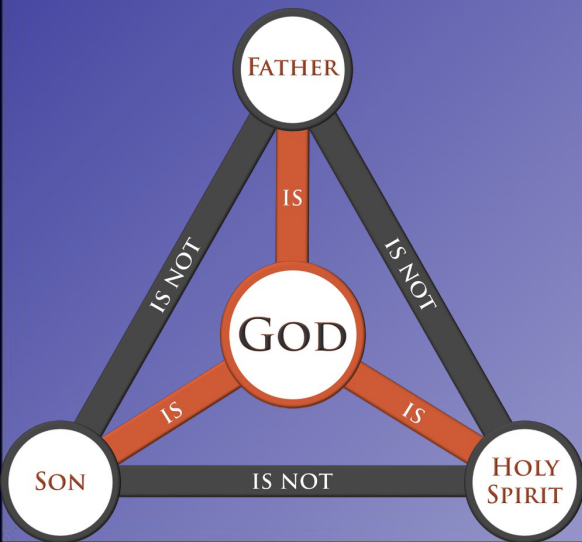
God the Son

- “We believe in... Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord...”
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 - We even talked about how the Trinity was at least a smidgey bit like how the Greeks saw living beings— with the Son being the physicality of God, His Paternal Will being expressed into the physical cosmos through the power of His Spirit
 - Note that the terms “only-begotten” (from John 3:16) or “firstborn” (from Colossians 1:15) are more about Christ’s uniqueness and preeminence than about actual *birth*-ness (i.e.; they don’t imply that there was a time when Christ *wasn’t*, before the Father “begat” Him)



God the Son

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 - But exactly what that *looked* like in Jesus Himself—understood in “rubber-hits-the-road” Christology about Christ’s life as “Immanuel” walking with us—was a debate in the early church



God the Son



Funky little teaching moment—*Christology*.

Man Marcionism ~~God~~

- Lay theologian Marcion taught that YAHWEH was a *naughty* god from the Jewish “Old” Testament, and Jesus was a *good* god from the Christian “New” Testament
 - Therefore, Jesus *couldn't* have been a human being, since that would have made Him part of YAHWEH's sinfully fleshly Creation—but He wasn't really “God” in the same sense that YAHWEH had been, since they were effectively two *different* gods
 - Jesus only *seemed* human while here on Earth, when He was actually only a Spirit (spawning the movement known as “*Docetism*”—from the word, “*δοκέω*” or “*dokeō*”—“to seem”)



God the Son



Funky little teaching moment—*Christology*.

Man Marcionism ~~God~~

Man Arianism God

- Arius said that Jesus wasn't *divine*—or at least not as divine as the *Father* was
 - The Father was the all-powerful *θεος* (“*Theos*” or “*God*”), and Jesus was the perfect human *κύριος* (“*Kyrios*” or “*Lord*”) who came *from* the Father during human history to teach us how to be *holy* humans
 - So the word that Arius wanted to use to describe Christ's essence in the Creed was “*ὁμοιούσιος*” (“*homoiousios*”)—“a similar essence [to God the Father]”
(but instead, they went with “*ὁμοούσιος*” [“*homouousios*”]—“the same essence [as God the Father]”)



God the Son

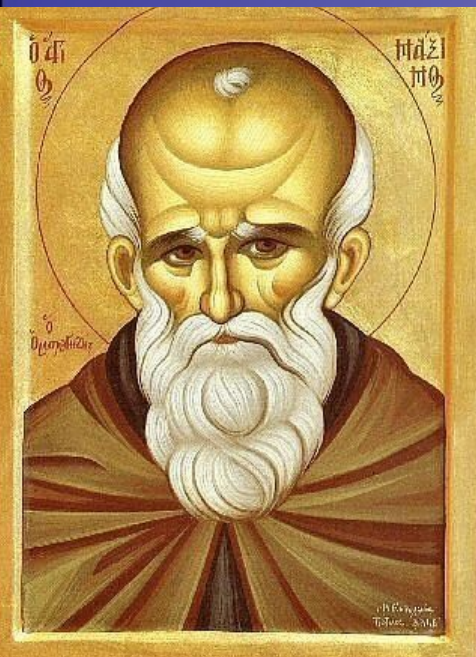
- Funky little teaching moment—*Christology*.

Man Marcionism ~~God~~

Man Arianism God

Man Apollinarism God

- Apollinaris said Jesus had a human *body* and *soul* (i.e.; emotions), but a Divine *mind*
 - Theodoret accused Apollinaris of teaching modalism—that God revealed Himself to humanity in three stages or “modes” (the Father in Creation, the Son in Redemption, and the Spirit in Sanctification and Regeneration)



God the Son

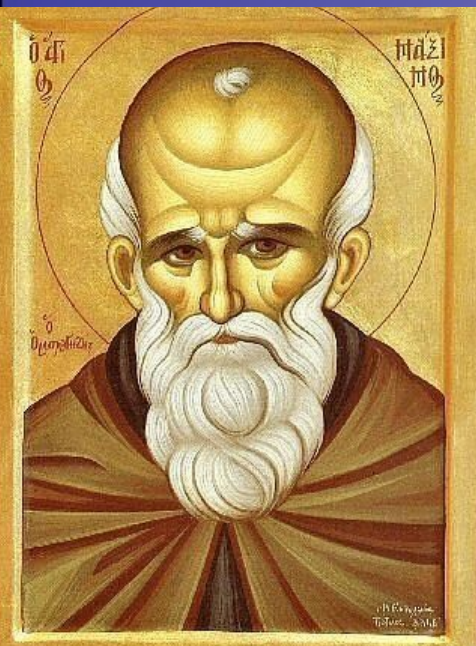
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 - Theodoret accused Apollinaris of teaching modalism—that God revealed Himself to humanity in three stages or “modes”
 - To Apollinaris, terms like “Father” or “Son” or “Spirit” just reflect different personal manifestations of an undifferentiated God in the universe at different times in history (like that time when God’s mind added flesh) (the roots of modern “Oneness” doctrines)



God the Son

- Funky little teaching moment—*Christology*.

Man Marcionism ~~God~~

Man Arianism God

Man Apollinarism God

Man Nestorianism God



- Nestorius didn't break it up between being a fleshly human and a spiritual God—instead, Jesus Christ had two *distinct, separate spirits*
 - So Jesus the fleshly *Man* had a *human* spirit while Christ the *Son of God* had a *divine* one (so which one was He referencing on the cross in Luke 23:46 when He said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit...”?)



God the Son

- Funky little teaching moment—*Christology*.

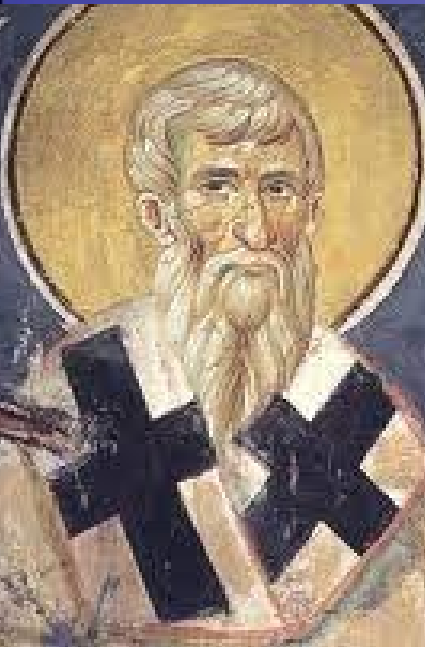
Man Marcionism ~~God~~

Man Arianism God

Man Apollinarism God

Man Nestorianism God

Man ~~Eutychianism~~ God



- Eutyches agreed that Christ did have both a human nature *and* a Divine one, but they actually then combined formed a third, *new* nature that was unprecedentedly alien



God the Son

- Funky little teaching moment—*Christology*.

Man Marcionism ~~God~~

Man Arianism God

Man Apollinarism God

Man Nestorianism God

Man ~~Eutychianism~~ God

Man Orthodoxy God



- Jesus was fully God *and* fully human—with one spirit but two natures cohering perfectly



God the Son

- Funky little teaching moment—*Christology*.
 - Or think of it this way, if it helps you out—

Ebionism
(Jesus wasn't God)

Docetism
(Jesus wasn't human)

Arianism
(Jesus wasn't fully God)

Apollinarism
(Jesus wasn't fully human)

***Fully God but Fully Human
One Person with Two Natures***

Nestorianism
(Jesus was two persons
with two spirits)

Eutychianism
(Jesus had a blended nature
that was totally alien)



God the Son

- “We believe in... Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord...”
 - We've already talked about Christ as the Son when we talked about the Trinity
 - But could we speak a bit about Jesus as *Lord*...?

