

GF 101: Understanding the Trinity

Lesson 6.2 (article, “Denials of Orthodoxy: Heretical Views of the Doctrine of the Trinity”)

1. What was considered the first significant challenge to the early church’s understanding of the Trinity?
2. What early church father defended the orthodox understanding of the Trinity and was influential in forming the foundation for the church’s definition of the Trinity (e.g., God is one in essence or substance, yet three in persons)?
3. What ancient heresy denied the deity of the Son?
4. The author writes, “In particular, Arianism emphasized monotheism—the belief in only one God.” Where does Arianism go wrong if it emphasizes monotheism?
5. Even though the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325) affirmed Trinitarian orthodoxy, Arianism prevailed in parts of the Roman Empire. Who was instrumental in fighting for orthodoxy in the years following the Council?

6. Another view that surfaced was called Pneumatomachianism. What does this mean?

7. What is meant by the terms *economic Trinity* and the *ontological Trinity*?

8. What are four modern examples of revived old heresies that each deny the doctrine of the Trinity?

9. Why is upholding the doctrine of the Trinity essential?

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