GF 101: Understanding the Trinity

Lesson 6.4 (article, “Sabellianism”)

1. The article begins by saying heresies are “a failed attempt at orthodoxy.” What does this mean?

2. What is Sabellianism?

3. When and where did Sabellius teach his error?

4. What heresy did Sabellius refute?

5. What error did Sabellius fall into by refuting the aforementioned heresy?

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1 Recall from earlier lessons that Sabellianism, also known as Modalism, are forms of the erroneous viewpoint that became known as Monarchianism—a position that emphasized the unity of God (or Oneness, as opposed to Trinitarianism).
6. Is “Sabellianism” still around today?

7. What is the assumption of modern-day Sabellians (aka, Modalists, etc.) regarding the nature of God?

8. According to the article, what has “long been recognized as the greatest weakness of Modalists”?

9. According to the text, “if we take the text as it stands, and allow the Bible to speak to us rather than imposing upon it our own ideas,” what important truth lesson do we discover about God?