THE HOLY TRINITY UNIVERSITY



Department of Dogmatic Theology

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Dogma

The Greek word Dogma literally means ‘opinion. Christian understanding of Dogma is the pillar/ faith / of the Christian Church.

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The Dogmas of a church are those doctrines which it declares to be the most essential contents of Christianity

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Sources of Dogma

On what are dogmas founded?

1. **Sacred Tradition:**

- The ongoing life of God's People

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-That which God's People have believed lived, experienced, celebrated and shared at all times and in all places.

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- The living link that unites God's people in a common faith, life & experience.

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= Sacred tradition Includes…

-All that is essential to God's revelation and necessary for our salvation.

- Holy Scripture.
- Prayer & liturgical worship

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- Accepted creeds & acts of the early Church's councils
- Writings of the Holy Fathers
- Lives of the saints. (Hagiographies)
- Artistic and hymnal. expression of the Church.

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2. Sacred Scripture

2.1 Old Testament

- Records the manner in which God prepared the world for the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ.

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2.2 New Testament

- Completes and fulfills God's revelation... by proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord, God and Savior; as the very Word of God.

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- Who came to live in the midst of His people; and as the perfect, final and complete revelation of God to the world.

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➤Instruments that used to constitute Dogma of the Church

Revelation, Faith and interpretation are the main instruments for the formation of Christian Dogma.

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1. Revelation

Revelation is the basis and content of Christian faith. Apart from God's self-revelation there would be no knowledge of God and no Christian faith.

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2. Faith

In Christian understanding faith is the human response to divine revelation. It is a pre-condition and solid ground of learning

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- Without having faith in God, we cannot study dogma, because it is not simply an intellectual exercise.

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3.Interpretation.
The revealed truth can be understood through the experience and interpretation.

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➤The main concepts of Christian Dogmatic Theology:

- There is only one God.
- God is a Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- God is perfect.

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-God is omnipotent.
-God is everywhere.
-God knows everything.
-God created the universe

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God the Son

- God lived on earth as Jesus
- Jesus during incarnation, both wholly God and wholly human

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The Doctrine Holy Trinity In The Old Testaments

- **Creation:** “Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness…”. (Gen.1:26)

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There is no other God but one. 1 Corinthians 8:4

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- **Fall:** “Then the LORD God said: " See! The man has become like one of us…”. (Gen. 3:22)

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- **Scattering of Language at Babel**: “Let us then go down and there confuse their language, so that one will not understand what another says”. (Gen. 11:7).

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- **The Holy Trinity in New Testaments**

The Divine unity is assumed and affirmed (1Cor. 8:4f; Eph. 4:4f; Mk. 12:29).

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There are several passages in the New Testament in which the three names are put together in a formula or in close proximity

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(2Thess. 2:13f; Gal. 4:6; 1Cor. 12:4f; 2Cor.3:14; Eph. 4:4f; 1Pet. 1:2; Mt. 28:19; Acts. 2:32f).

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Trinity

The word “Trinity” is a summary of a Biblical fact, to summarize that the God we worship is a Triune God, with three “Hypostasis”, where “Hypostasis” is a Greek word signifying a person,

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- who is indivisible from other persons. This is to say that the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit are three “Hypostasis”,.

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in one God Head OUSIA. Here Ousia is Substance/ nature.

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THE NECESSITY TO BELIEVE IN A TRIUNE GOD

1. A None Triune God is deficient and inactive.
2. The teaching of the Trinity is the key to our Salvation and Sanctification.
3. The Trinity is a Biblical teaching.

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THE HYPOSTASIS OF THE FATHER

The Name “FATHER” is frequently applied in Scripture to the Triune God.

1. As The Creator Of All Things

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1 Cor 8:6 “ yet for us [there is] one God, the Father, of whom [are] all things, and we for Him;

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.....and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom [are] all things, and through whom we [live].”

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Heb 12:9 “ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected [us], and we paid [them] respect.

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....Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?”

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James 1:17 “ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,....

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.....and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ”

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The Father of Israel

Deu 32:6 “ Do you thus deal with the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? [Is] He not your Father, [who] bought you? Has He not made you and established you?”

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Isa 63:16 Doubtless You [are] our Father, Though Abraham was ignorant of us, And Israel does not acknowledge us

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. You, O LORD, [are] our Father; Our Redeemer from Everlasting [is] Your name.”

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The Father of Believers

Mat 5:45 “that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

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Mat 6:6 “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father...

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who [is] in the secret [place]; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

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Mat 6:9 “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.”

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Mat 6:14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

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The First Hypostasis of The Trinity

John 1:18 “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared [Him].”

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The Distinctive Characteristics Of The Father

The distinctive characteristic of the Father that He “Generates” or “Gives Birth” to the Son **from all eternity.** This is why the Creed states “**Begotten Not Made**”.

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St Basil's Liturgy"

"O Great and eternal God Who Created Man in In-corruption"

" And by the Life-giving manifestation of your Only-Begotten Son.....

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, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, You destroyed that death which was introduced to the world by the envy of the devil”.

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- **THE HYPOSTASIS OF THE SON**
  The second Hypostasis in the Trinity is called the "Son", or "Son of God."
- He bears this name, as the only Begotten of the Father,

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The Only Begotten Son

John 1:14 “ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

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John 1:18 "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared [Him]."

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John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

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John 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

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Gal 4:4 “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,”

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“Messiah” Chosen Of God

Mat 8:29 “And suddenly they cried out, saying,What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God.

ave You come here to rment us before the time? ”

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Mat 26:63 “But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!”

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John 1:49 “Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

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John 11:27 She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

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Special Immaculate And Virginal Birth

Luke 1:32-35 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the ord God will give Him the rone of His father David.

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”And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

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Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” And the angel answered and said

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“The] Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you;

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therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

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THE HYPOSTASIS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Through the Bible the Holy Spirit stands out as a Hypostasis, and not just a mere force.

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Holy Spirit is the third Hypostasis, Proceeds from only from the Father and Life giver.

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The Holy Spirit As A Divine Hypostasis Speaks And Calls!

Acts 13:2 “..As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

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The Holy Spirit As A Divine Hypostasis Hears!

John 16:13 “However , when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth.....; ”

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“…..for He will not speak on His own [authority], but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

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The Holy Spirit As A Divine Hypostasis Teaches!

John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

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The Holy Spirit As A Divine Hypostasis Counsels

John 14:16-17 “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever;

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”the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

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The Holy Spirit As A Divine Hypostasis, He Knows The Future

Acts 21:11 When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his [own] hands and feet, and said, “

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Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver [him] into the hands of the Gentiles.’ ”

The Holy Spirit As A Divine Hypostasis May Be Lied To!

Acts 5:3 “But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back [part] of the price of the land for yourself?”

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The Holy Spirit As A Divine Hypostasis Forbids!

Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.”

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The Holy Spirit As A Divine Hypostasis May Be Grieved!

Eph 4:30 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

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The Holy Spirit As A Divine Hypostasis Intercedes!

Rom 8:27 “Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit [is],

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because He makes intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God.

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St Peter Calls The Holy Spirit God

In the first Church in Jerusalem Annanias and his wife Sapphira sold some property and

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brought only a part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full price, St Peter said:

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Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back [part] of the price of the land for yourself? ….

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”While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

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The Lord told the prophet Isaiah In Acts 28: 25-26 the Apostle Paul states that it was the Holy Spirit who spoke these words through Isaiah:

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Isa 6:9 And He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive. ’

Acts 28:25-26 So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, {26}” saying, ‘Go to this people and say: “Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive;

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THE THREE HYPOSTASIS ARE ONE GOD

- Each Hypostasis Is Called The One Lord

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LORD

Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth

Mat 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from [the] wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.

Son, Lord of Glory

James 2:1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, [the Lord] of glory, with partiality.

Eph 4:5 (NKJV) one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Holy Spirit

2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord [is], there [is] liberty.

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ONE SPIRIT

THE ONE SPIRIT	The Spirit of God The Father	The Spirit of Christ The one Spirit
Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.	Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.	Eph 4:4 [There is] one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

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Creator

THE CREATOR

The Father Creates

1 Cor 8:6 yet for us [there is] one God, the Father, of whom [are] all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom [are] all things, and through whom we [live].

Mal 2:10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously with one another By profaning the covenant of the

The Son Creates

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

The Spirit Creates

Psa 104:30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.

THE LORD DWELLS

The Father and Son make their Home In the man of Christ

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

2 Cor 6:16 And what agreement has the temple of
God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among [them]. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”

Christ dwells in your Hearts

Eph 3:17 that Christ may dwell
in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

The Spirit of God dwells in you

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

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”“Even though we say the Trinity are three in name, in function and in person; the three are one in essence, in divinity, in existence and in will; we do not mean three Gods but one God

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While the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit exist in their own perfect person, they are one in existence."(Faith of the Father's Ch. 40 4: 6

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The truth of the Scriptures is

· There are three distinct Divine Hypostasis.

· These Three are equal in their characteristics, but they are one Being.

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· They are properly called God, whether separately or collectively.
· They are not three separate Gods, but only one eternal God- Father, Son, and Spirit.

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“አብ አምላክ ነው፥ ወልድም አምላክ ነው፤ መንፈስ ቅዱስም አምላክ ነው፥ ነገር ግን ሦስት አማልክት አይባሉም፤ አንድ አምላክ ነው እንጅ።” ቅዱስ አትናቴዎስ

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“The Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God. They are called one God but not three Gods.” (Apostolic Athanasius Faith of the Fathers Ch. 24 Part 4 Verse 4)

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The Doctrine of Holy Trinity Developed in the Fourth Century

Capadocian Fathers developed the famous Trinitarian formula that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are of 'one *ousia* and three *hypostases*'

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That means one substance and three divine persons. There is no subordination among the three divine persons in the Holy Trinity.

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The Orthodox doctrine of the Holy Trinity is mainly depending on the definition proposed by the Capadocian

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The Doctrine of Incarnation (Christology)

"For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God."

St. Irenaeus, 2nd century



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- Mystery of incarnation means the mystery of the descending of God the Son who is one of the Trinity from heaven and taking up flesh and rational soul from the Holy Virgin Mary.

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This is the mystery of God becoming man and man becoming God. " The word became flesh and dwelt among us." (Jn. 1:14).

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Christology deals with the doctrinal understanding of the Church regarding the person and work of Jesus Christ.

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The purpose of the incarnation of the eternal Word is obviously the salvation of the whole creation.

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Oriental Orthodoxy is constituted by the six national Churches of the Oriental Orthodox communion.

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the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria the Syriac Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East,

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the Malankara(Indian) Syrian Orthodox Church, the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church and the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church.

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those Churches were largely out of contact with the other main branches of Christianity from the time of the Council of Chalcedon...

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which resulted in their being branded monophysites by the Roman and Greek churches

But these Churches are instead miaphysites (from the Greek *mia-* , or “single,” and *physis* , or “nature”)

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and that they held that through the mystery of the Incarnation both the human and divine natures of Christ were present in a single nature.

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Monophysite proposed by Eutychus (378-454) was the head of a very large monastery of Constantinople. To him was only one nature in

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Since no writings of Eutychus is available, we cannot be sure that he originally proposed *onophysitism.*

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It is almost obvious that he denied saying that the humanity of Jesus was *onsubstantial* (homoousios) with our humanity.

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Miaphysite

According to St. Cyril of Alexandria, in the incarnation, the eternal Word took to Him and made His own, human flesh animated by a rational soul.

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The union between the word and this humanity is a true and real

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He proposed the famous Christological expression *Miaphysistou Theou logouse sarkomene* ('One incarnate nature of God the word').

, true God out of true
God, begotten not
made. Of one
ssence with the
ather…”

The Creed

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First Adam	The Lord Jesus
- Followed His feelings and instincts.	- Followed the commands of God the Father.
- Defied death and believed the Serpent.	- Died for our Sin and accepted death.
- Wanted to Be independent From God.	- Always Fulfilled the Will of the Father.
- Wanted to Be Like God.	- Gave God Full Glory.

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The Lord Jesus True Man	The Lord Jesus True God
He Said Didn’t Know the Day of Final Judgment Mark 13:32 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.	He knows Every Thing John 21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

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Prayed

Luke 22:41-42 And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

Answers Our Prayers

John 14:13-14 " And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

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He was Troubled

John 13:21 When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."

For Who Believe in Him Removes Trouble

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

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Died

John 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Raised Himself and Raises others From Death

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

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He said The Father is Greater Than Him	Declared Himself Equal to The Father
John 14:28 "You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.	John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God

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Was Hungry

Luke 4:2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

Fed the Multitudes

Refer to John 6:5

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Divinity

JEHOVAH GOD DECLARES	THE LORD JESUS ACCEPTS WORSHIP
(ISA 44:6)- "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: `I {am} the First and I {am} the Last; besides Me {there is} no	(JOH 20:28)- And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (NKJ). Revel. 22:13

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The Scripture clearly teach that while Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is true man, He is also true God.

- He Claimed to Be God. ·
- He does the work of God.
- He has the qualities of God. ·

He is Called God.

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THANKS FOR ATTENTION !!

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