

Doctrine of the Trinity

God is one but manifested in three persons

1. Father
2. son
3. Holy Spirit

Trinitarian debate

stated before the year 325 council of nice

council meeting called on by the emperor constantine to deal with the issue

Is jesus god, or the son of god?

Aries

Alexander of Alexandria

1st phase

- revolved around whether it is appropriate to call jesus god or the son of god
- Arius: is god eternal. refused to believe that jesus was god himself
 - first creature that god created

Constantine

- call a gathering of bishops in order to decide if Arius is right
- Arius was wrong and should be condemned

creed: to indicate what people believe in

- there was a non-biblical word found in the trinity
- consubstantial

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- god, son of god and became incarnate
- who is the holy spirit

2nd phase

The council of constantinople

father is not born by anyone else: no one above him (first divine person)

son: absolute son, eternally generated by the father

holy spirit: precedes by the father

one god, manifested in three persons

ended up defining what a person is

- no concept of person before the 4th century
- came into existence because of the christian attempt to understand who god is

example