

Whoever desires to be saved should above all hold to the **catholic faith**. Anyone who does not keep it whole and unbroken will doubtless perish eternally. Now this is the catholic faith:

That we worship **one** God in **trinity**
 and the trinity in unity,
 neither blending their persons. The three persons are **distinct**: we can tell which is which.
 nor dividing their essence.. . . . The three persons are **inseparable**: "*one in being*."

For the person of the Father is a **distinct person**,
 the person of the Son is another,
 and that of the Holy Spirit still another.
 But **the divinity** of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is **one**,
 their glory **equal**, their majesty **coeternal**.

What quality the Father has, the Son has, and the Holy Spirit has.

The Father is **uncreated**,
 the Son is **uncreated**,
 the Holy Spirit is **uncreated**.

The Father is **immeasurable**,
 the Son is **immeasurable**,
 the Holy Spirit is **immeasurable**.

The Father is **eternal**,
 the Son is **eternal**,
 the Holy Spirit is **eternal**.

And yet there are **not three** eternal beings;
 there is but **one** eternal being.
 So too there are not three uncreated or immeasurable beings;
 there is but one uncreated and immeasurable being.

Similarly, the Father is **almighty**,
 the Son is **almighty**,
 the Holy Spirit is **almighty**.
 Yet there are **not three** almighty beings;
 there is but **one** almighty being.

Thus the Father is **God**,
 the Son is **God**,
 the Holy Spirit is **God**.
 Yet there are **not three** gods;
 there is but **one** God.

Thus the Father is **Lord**,
 the Son is **Lord**,
 the Holy Spirit is **Lord**.
 Yet there are **not three** lords;
 there is but **one** Lord.

Just as **Christian truth** compels us.. . . . These two doctrines are **revealed** to us by Jesus.
 to confess each person individually
 as both God and Lord,
 so catholic religion forbids us
 to say that there are three gods or lords.. . . . Christians see themselves as **monotheists**.

The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten from anyone.. . . . **The Father alone has no Father**.
 The Son was neither made nor created;
 he was **begotten** from the Father alone.
 The Holy Spirit was neither made nor created nor begotten;
 he **proceeds** from the Father **and the Son**.. . . . *filioque* clause: "*filio*" = from the son, "*que*" = and

Accordingly there is **one Father**, not three fathers;
there is **one Son**, not three sons;
there is **one Holy Spirit**, not three holy spirits.

Nothing in this trinity is before or after,
nothing is greater or smaller;
in their entirety the three persons
are **coeternal** and **coequal** with each other.

So in everything, as was said earlier,
we must **worship** their **trinity in their unity**
and their **unity in their trinity**.

Anyone then who desires to be saved should **think thus** about the **trinity**..... Tri + unity --> "Trinity."
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But it is necessary for eternal salvation that one also believe in the **incarnation** of our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully.

Now this is the **true faith**:

That we believe and confess
that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,..... "Lord Jesus Christ" sounds nice in Greek: "**Kyrios Iesous Christos**"
is **both God and human, equally**.

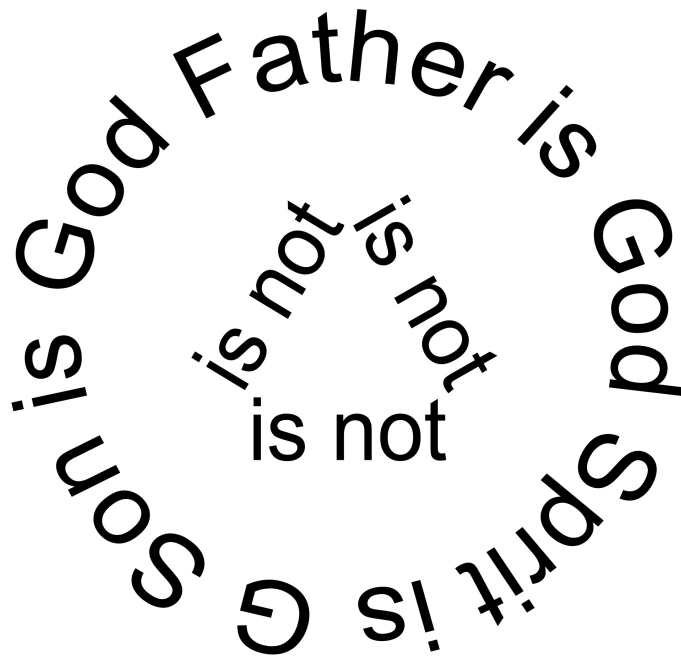
He is **God from the essence of the Father**,
begotten before time;
and he is **human from the essence of his mother**,..... Mary is **theotokos**, "Mother of God."
born in time;
completely God, completely human,..... Against the **Apollinarians**, who denied Jesus' full humanity.
with a **rational soul** and **human flesh**;.... Aristotle: **the soul is the form of the body**. Jesus had to have a **human soul**.
equal to the Father as regards divinity,
less than the Father as regards humanity..... Both **equality and inequality** are revealed in the Gospels.

Although he is God and human,
yet Christ is **not two, but one**..... Against **Nestorianism**: The God-Man is *one person (hypostasis)*.
He is one, however,
not by his divinity being turned into flesh,
but by God's taking humanity to himself..... The material in this section is the teaching of the fourth council, **Chalcedon**,
He is one, 451 AD.
certainly **not by the blending of his essence**,..... Against **monophysitism**.
but by the unity of his person.
For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh,
so too the one Christ is both God and human..... **Hypostatic [personal] union of two natures**.

He **suffered** for our salvation;..... Against **docetism**, which implies that God only pretended to suffer and die.
he **descended** to hell;
he **arose** from the dead;
he **ascended** to heaven;
he is **seated at the Father's right hand**;
from there **he will come to judge the living and the dead**. The **Second Advent** (Latin: "coming").
At his coming **all people will arise bodily**
and **give an accounting of their own deeds**..... **Judgment Day** is *personal* and perfectly *just*.
Those who have done good will enter eternal life,
and those who have done evil will enter eternal fire..... **God knows** perfectly how to judge the deeds of **all men**.

This is the **catholic faith**: one cannot be saved without believing it firmly and faithfully.

"This creed is named after **Athanasius** (A.D. 293-373), the champion of orthodoxy against **Arian** attacks on the doctrine of the trinity. Although Athanasius probably did not write this creed, the name persists because until the seventeenth century it was commonly ascribed to him. It is not from **Greek** (Eastern), but from **Latin** (Western) origin, and is not recognized by the Eastern Orthodox Church today. Apart from the opening and closing sentences, this creed consists of two parts, the first setting forth the orthodox doctrine of the **trinity**, and the second dealing chiefly with the **incarnation** and the two-natures doctrine. The translation above was adopted by the Christian Reformed Church Synod of 1988."



Elements of the Athanasian Creed

Moleski, SJ

God, the Father is God.	The Father is not the Son.	The Father is not the Spirit
God, the Son is God.	The Son is not the Father.	The Son is not the Spirit.
God, the Spirit is God.	The Spirit is not the Father.	The Spirit is not the Son.

There are three **persons**. There is only one **God**, one **being**, one **entity**. Never mix up what is *one* and what is *three*!

What is one is not three: one *God*, one *being*, one *entity*.

What is three is not one: three *Persons*.

Only the **Son** became human; not the Father or the Spirit.

Only the **Son** suffered; not the Father or the Spirit (vs. *patipassianism*, the claim that the Father suffered on the Cross).

The Son is *from* the Father.

The Spirit is *from* the Father *and* the Son (*filioque*).

In Jesus, there is only one **person** (Greek: *hypostasis*).

That single, divine person unites in Himself two **natures**: the nature of God and the nature of man.

This understanding of God (**Trinity**) and of Jesus (**Incarnation**) was revealed to us by Jesus and preserved by the Church. This is the orthodox **interpretation of the Scriptures**.

It is:

not something worked out from philosophical axioms (*not self-evident*),
not from observation of the universe (*not empirical*),
not from introspection (*not subject to direct personal verification*), and
not from mystical experiences (*not gnostic*).

This is part of **the deposit of faith**. We believe that God is **Three-in-One** because **Jesus said so, and He should know**. But we have no adequate "picture" or image or model of how this can be so. **Faith comes from hearing and causes a view--believing is "seeing."**

You may, of course, choose not to be a **Trinitarian**. But do not pretend then that you are believing or teaching what orthodox Christianity teaches. You will have reverted to one of the **unitarian heresies** rejected by the same Church that collected the Scriptures of the New Testament (Arianism, modalism, patipassianism, Sabellianism, theopaschism, Nestorianism, docetism, etc.) or one form or another of the ancient Jewish or contemporary **modernist** views of Jesus as a psychotic, a dupe, a demoniac, or a criminal. If the teaching comes from the disciples only and not from Jesus, then *they* must have been psychotic, stupid, demon-possessed, or evil.