

Heritage Presbyterian Church
Westminster Larger Catechism

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Q. 8. *Are there more Gods than one?*

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

There is only one God:

Deuteronomy 6:4-

1 Corinthians 8:4-6-

Isaiah 45:21-22-

Isaiah 44:6-

That one God is living and true:

Jeremiah 10:10-12-

John 17:3-

1 Thessalonians 1:9-

1 John 5:20-

Q. 9. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There be three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one true, eternal God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory; although distinguished by their personal properties.

THE PERSONS OF THE GODHEAD <i>Draw a line to Match the Truth to the Passage</i>	
The Names of the Godhead Together	1 Corinthians 8:6
The Father declared to be God	Acts 5:3-4
The Son declared to be God	John 1:18, John 15:26
The Holy Spirit declared to be God	1 Corinthians 8:4, Exodus 20:3
Three persons, yet only one God	Matthew 11:27, Hebrews 1:3
Three person, the same in substance	John 1:1, John 10:30
Persons differ in their personal properties	Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14

HERESIES AGAINST THE BIBLICAL TEACHING OF THE TRINITY

MODALISM (i.e. Sabellianism, Noetianism and Patripassianism) - Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not distinct persons, but different modes of God's self-revelation. Regard God as the Father in creation, the Son in redemption, and the Spirit in sanctification. In other words, God exists as Father, Son and Spirit in different eras, but never as triune.

Sabellianism (Eastern Church)- Sabellius was a 3rd Century priest and theologian. Influenced by Noetus. Excommunicated by Council of Alexandria.

Noetianism- Noetus was also 3rd Century. He was excommunicated from the church for his heresy of Patripassianism by presbyters in Ephesus.

Patripassianism (Sabellianism in the Western Church)- believed that the Father became directly incarnate in the Son and therefore sacrificed Himself on the cross.

TRITHEISM- Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three independent divine beings. They are three separate gods who share the 'same substance'.

ARIANISM- The pre-existent Christ was the first and greatest of God's creatures, denying Christ's deity. Alexandrian priest, Arius, was involved in what became the Arian controversy in the 4th Century. His teaching that Jesus was neither coeternal with the Father, and wasn't of the same substance, was refuted by the Council of Nicea, and in the Nicene Creed.

DOCETISM- Jesus is a purely divine being who only had the "appearance" of being human. Regarding His suffering, some taught that Jesus' divinity abandoned or left him upon the cross while others claimed that he only appeared to suffer (much like he only appeared to be human).

EBIONITISM- The Ebionites of the 1st Century taught that while Jesus was endowed with particular charismatic gifts which distinguished him from other humans but nonetheless was just a man.

MACEDONIANISM- The Holy Spirit is a created being. He was created by the Son.

ADOPTIONISM (*Dynamic Monarchianism*)- 2nd Century. Monarchianism affirmed the sole deity of God the Father. Adoptionism taught that Jesus was born completely human and, because of His sinless life, was only later chosen and adopted by the Father – either at his baptism, resurrection, or ascension.

PARTIALISM- Father, Son and Holy Spirit together are components of the one God. Therefore, each of the persons of the Trinity is only part God, only becoming fully God when they come together.