

AN INTRODUCTION FOR LAY READERS

# UNPACKING THE ATHANASIAN CREED



“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are  
My ways higher than your ways.”

—ISAIAH 55:9



Greek- οὐσία (*Ousia*)  
Latin- *Substantia*

# Being, Essence, Substance

THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF A THING; WHAT MAKES  
SOMETHING WHAT IT IS.

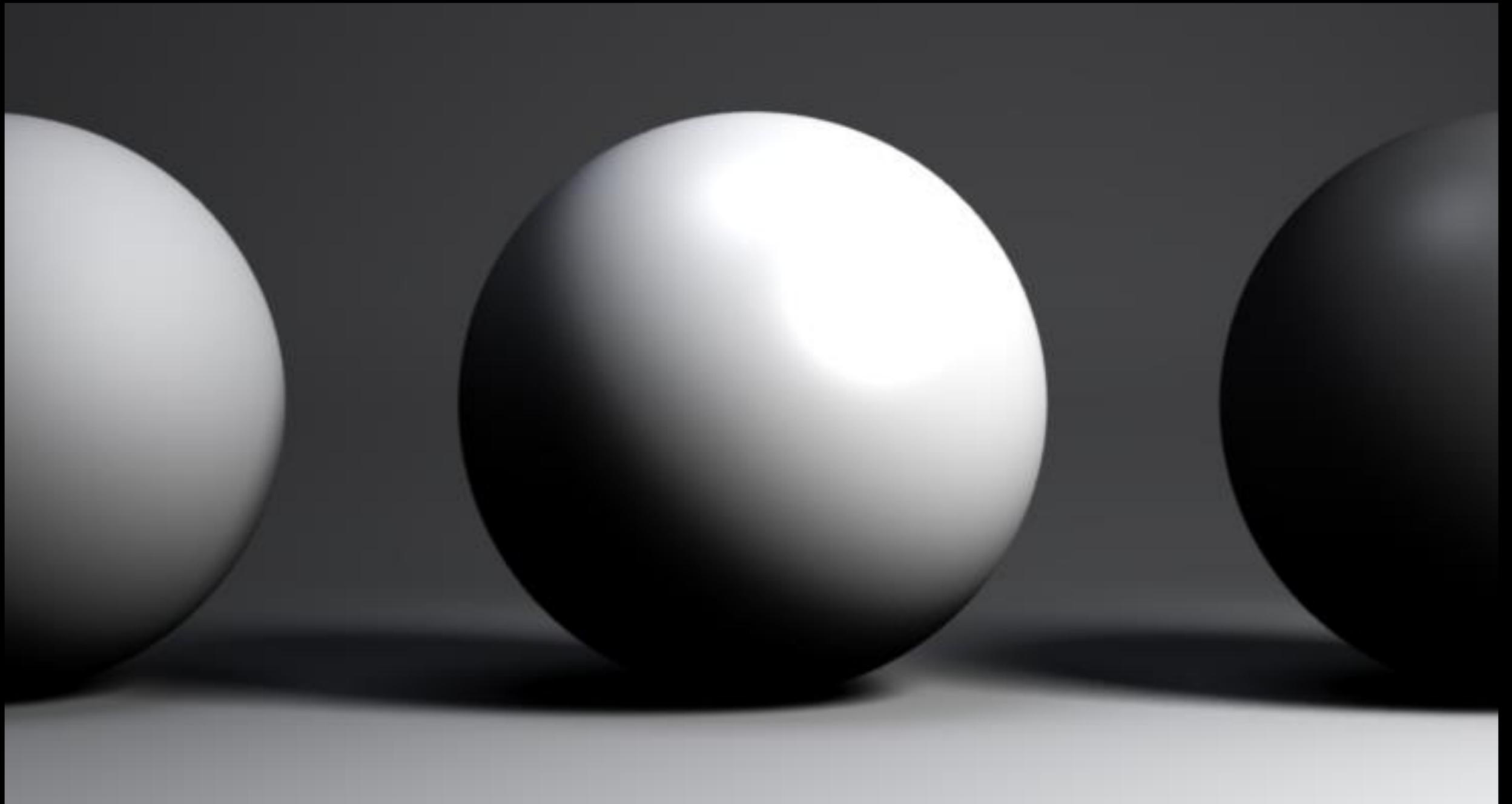
**Divinity-** The state or quality of being God. “God-ness.”

# ATTRIBUTES OF DIVINITY

- **Uncreated**
- **Infinite**
- **Eternal**
- **Almighty**

DO NOT

DIVIDE THE SUBSTANCE



“We worship one God in Trinity, and the Trinity in unity; neither confusing the persons, nor dividing the substance.”

–ATHANASIAN CREED, VERSE 4

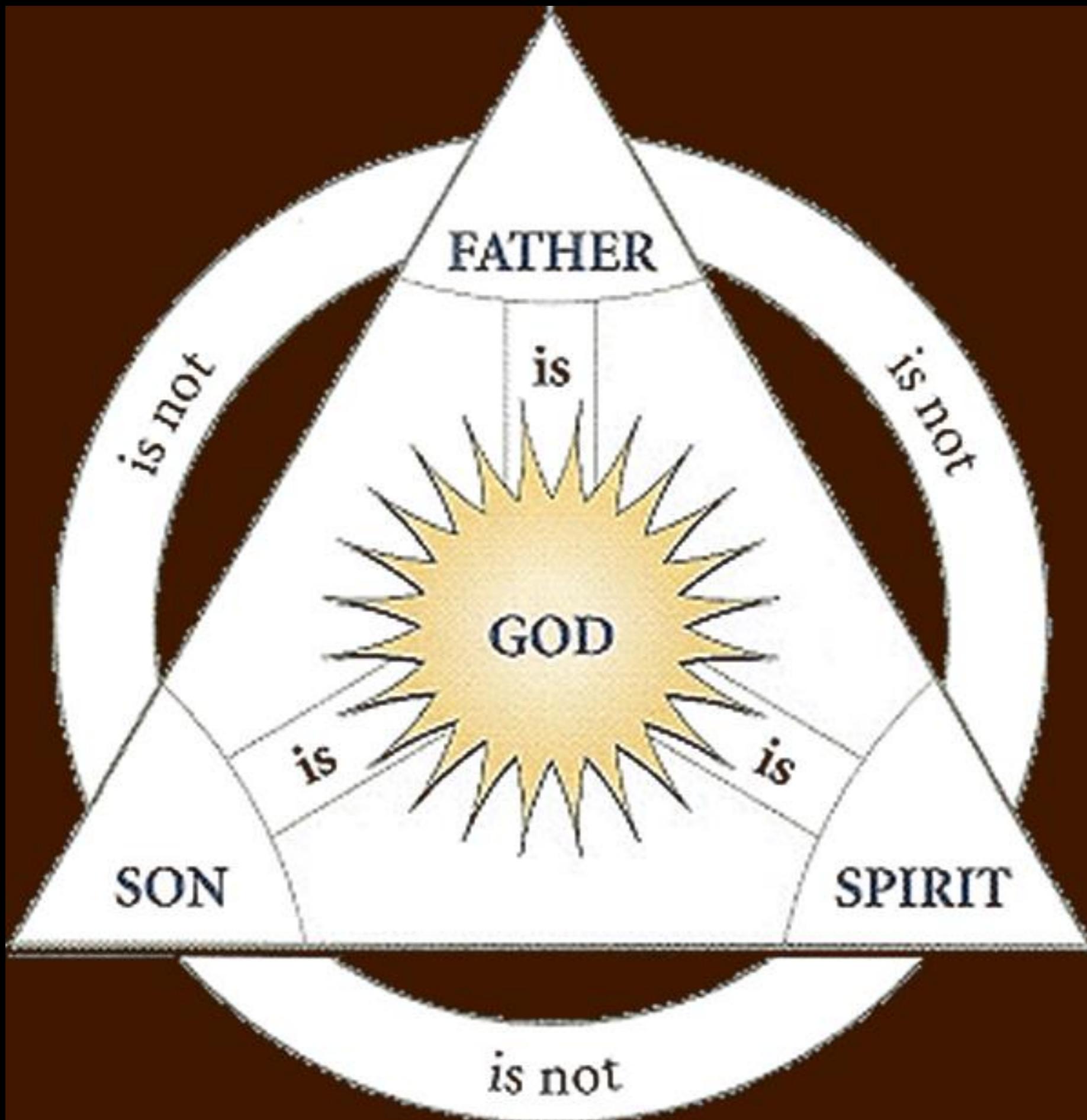
Greek- ὑπόστασις (*hypostasis*)  
Latin- *Personae*

**Person**

# THE LANGUAGE OF SCRIPTURE:

- “The Father is **made of none**, nor created, nor begotten” (21).
- “The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created, but **begotten**” (22).
- “The Holy Ghost is of the Father and the Son; not made, nor created, nor begotten, but **proceeding**” (23).





ἐκπορεύομαι (*ekporuomai*)- to proceed

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me.”

–JOHN 15:26

ATHANASIAN CREED VERSES 25-26

**“IN THIS TRINITY THERE IS NO BEFORE OR AFTER, NO GREATER OR LESS; BUT ALL THREE PERSONS ARE CO-ETERNAL TOGETHER, AND CO-EQUAL.”**

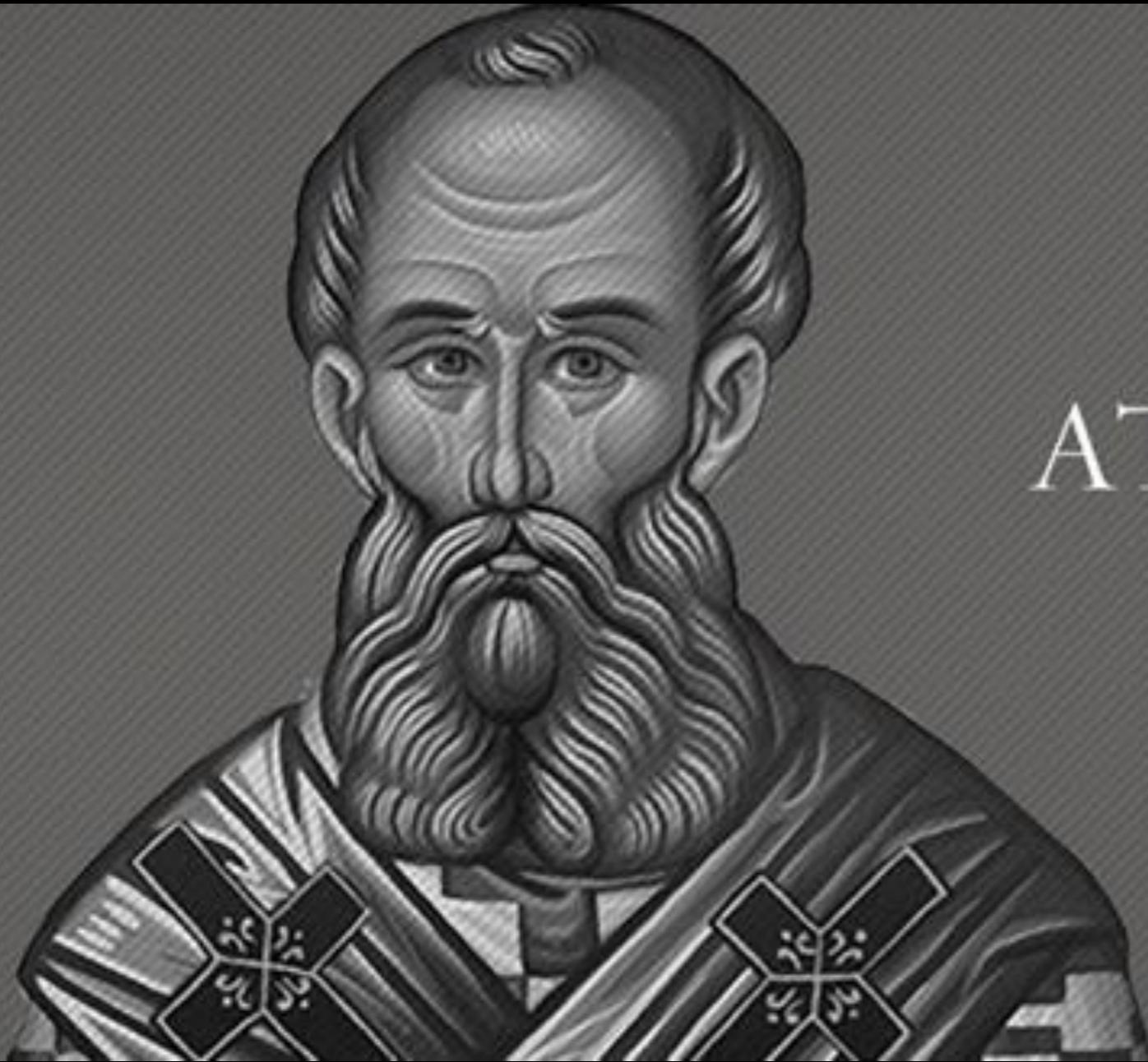


“Now the right Faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is both God and man. **He is God, of the Substance of the Father**, begotten before the worlds; and **he is Man, of the Substance of his mother**, born in the world. Perfect God and perfect man...”

–THE ATHANASIAN CREED 30-32

“What hasn’t been assumed hasn’t been redeemed.”

–ATHENASIUS OF ALEXANDRIA



ATHANASIUS

296-373

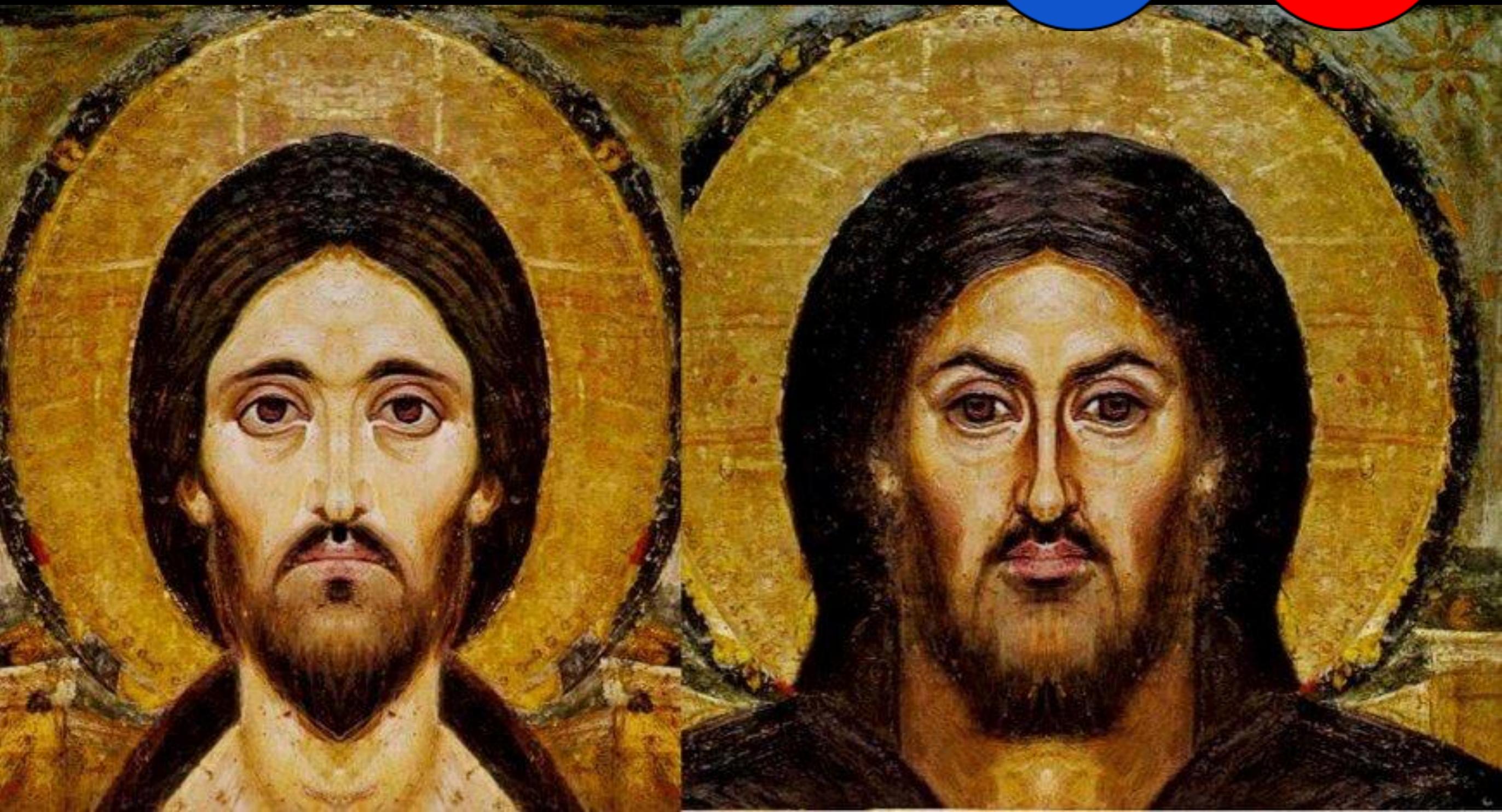
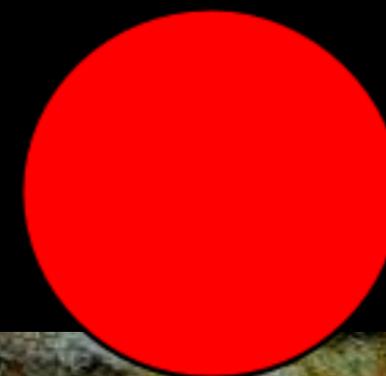
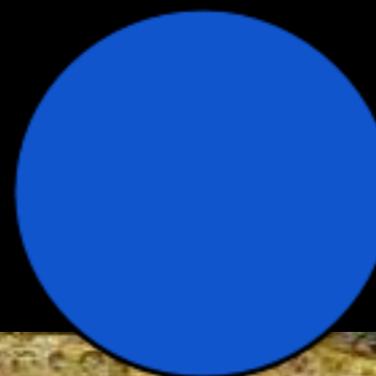
# A POLLONARIS OF LYODICIA

- He taught that Jesus had a body that was human and a mind that was the Logos of God.
- However, to be human is to be “of reasoning soul and human flesh subsisting.”



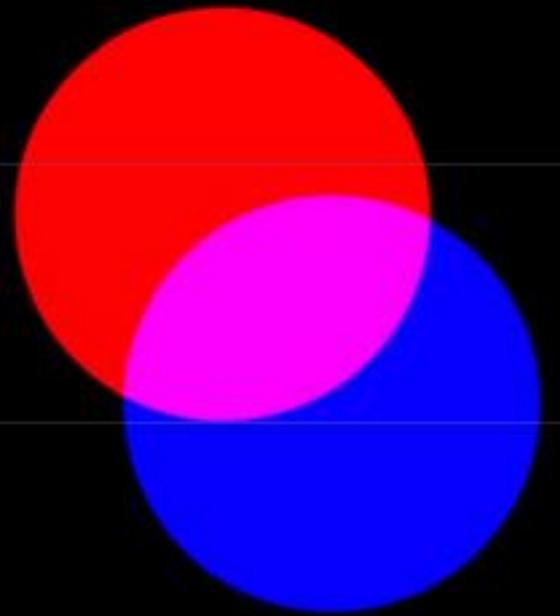
A STRICT LINE OF DIVINE BETWEEN JESUS' DIVINE NATURE AND HUMAN NATURE

# NESTORIANISM

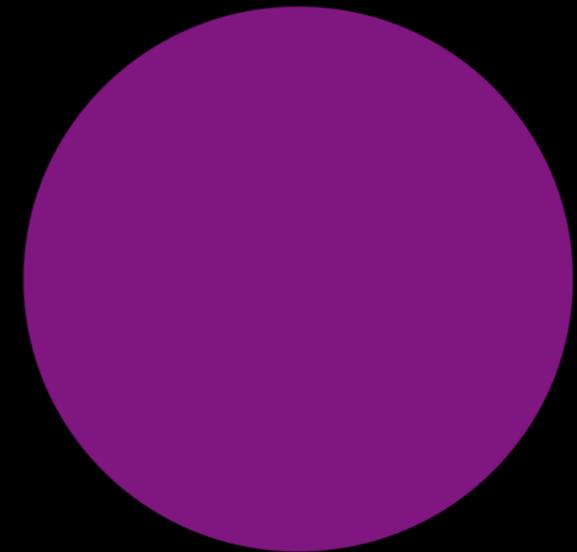
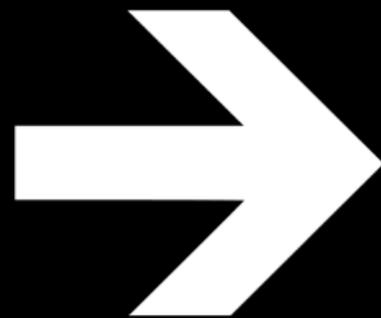


THE DIVINE AND HUMAN NATURES OF CHRIST COME TOGETHER  
TO FORM A NEW NATURE.

# MONOPHYSTICISM



HUMAN NATURE AND  
DIVINE NATURE



CHRIST NATURE

“He is one, certainly not by the blending of his essence, but by the unity of his person.”

–ATHANASIAN CREED

# REFERENCES & SUGGESTED READINGS

## BOOKS

- 1. A History of Christianity by Owen Chadwick
- 2. The Story of Christianity by Justo Gonzalez
- 3. An Introduction to the Christian Faith by Colin Gunton

## WEBSITE RESOURCES

- 1. Apostle's Creed- <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01629a.htm>
- 2. Nicene Creed- <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11049a.htm>
- 3. Athanasian Creed- <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/02033b.htm>
- 4. Catholic Encyclopedia called "New Advent." <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/>