

False Teaching Then and Now

Lesson #6 Arianism ³²²⁶

Supplemental Attachments for This Lesson:

File # 1963 Title: *What is Arianism?*

File # 1964 Title: *The Ghost of Arianism in the Church Today*

I. What is Arianism? –

Principle Error: The erroneous doctrine that denies the full deity of the Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit. “Arius taught that God the Son was at one point created by God the Father, and that before that time the Son did not exist, nor did the Holy Spirit, but the Father only. Thus though the heavenly Son is a heavenly being who existed before the rest of creation and who is far greater than all the rest of creation, he is still not equal to the Father in all his attributes – he may even be said to be ‘like the Father’ or ‘similar to the Father’ in his nature, but he cannot be said to be ‘of the same nature’ as the Father.

Wayne Grudem; *Systematic Theology*; p. 243

Who was Arius? A presbyter (pastor) of Alexandria in northern Africa (Egypt) after 313, - - - a proud, artful, restless and disputatious, pressed and overstated the Origenistic view of the subordination, accused Alexander, the Bishop of Alexandria, of Sabellianism, and taught that Christ, while he was indeed the creator of the world, was himself a creature of God, therefore not truly divine.

Philip Schaff; *History of the Christian Church*; Vol 3; p. 620

The table below is part of our File #0442; *What is Christian Orthodoxy?* Rev. 11 These two essentials are seriously violated by Arianism.

3rd Doctrinal Essence <u>Who is God?</u> - Theology	This one God exists eternally in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and are absolutely one in essence and being. Gen 1:26; Is 63:7-10; Matt 3:16-17; Matt 28:19; 1 Cor 12:4-6; <u>2 Cor 1:21-22</u> ; 2 Cor 13:14
4th Doctrinal Essence <u>Who is God?</u> – Theology (<u>Christology</u>)	The man Jesus is the Christ of Scripture. He is one person of the God-head, eternally existent <u>as God the Son</u>, fully God with all of the attributes of the Godhead and <u>in His Incarnation</u>, fully man, <u>existing in time from His conception</u> having lived a life without any sin. Ps 42:1-4; Eph 1:18-23; Col 1:15-18; Titus 2:11-14; Heb 1:1-4; Heb 2:9-18; 1 Jn 4:2-3

Why Do We Say that These Two Doctrinal Areas are Essentials of the Faith? Thus when denied, they are classified as “heresy” in the Church! **Consider:**

Ps 2:10-12 *Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. ¹¹Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. ¹²Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!* All passages reflected in this course are from the NASU (1995) unless otherwise indicated.

When commissioning Moses to bring His people out of Egypt and into the land of Canaan, Moses, when confronted by God at the burning bush asked God His name! God replied:

Exod 3:13-15 *Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM**"; and He said, "**Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'**" ¹⁵God, furthermore, said to Moses, "**Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of***

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Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

“**Tetragrammaton**, is the four-letter Hebrew theonym יהוה (transliterated as YHWH), the name of the national god of Israel. The four letters, written and read from right to left, are yodh, he, waw, and he.^[1] The name may be derived from a verb that means "to be", "to exist", "to cause to become", or "to come to pass".^{[2][3]} While there is no consensus about the structure and etymology of the name, the form Yahweh is now accepted almost universally.” **Wikipedia**; under “*Tetragrammaton*”

The “I am” Series of the Gospel of John; Jesus demonstrates repeated claim to be God, very God!
John Chrysostom (ca. 349-407) attached more theological significance to ego eimi, in his **55th Homily on John**: "But wherefore said He not, Before Abraham was, "I was" (εγω ἦν), instead of "I Am" (εγω εμμι)? As the Father uses this expression, I Am (εγω εμμι), **so also does Christ; for it signifies continuous Being, irrespective of all time.** On which account the expression seemed to them to be blasphemous."^[6] **Wikipedia**; under the article “*Ego eimi*”.

Jn 6:35 *Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in me will never thirst.”*

Jn 8:12 *Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, **but will have the Light of life.**”*

Jn 8:18 *“I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.”*

Jn 8:23 *And He was saying to them, “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world.”*

Jn 8:24 *“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for **unless you believe that I am He**, you will die in your sins.*

Jn 8:28 *So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, **but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.**”*

Jn 8:58-59 *Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was born, I am**.” Therefore **they picked up stones to throw at Him**, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.*

They knew and understood what Jesus was saying to them. He is the Son of God! They supposed correctly that for a mere man to say such a thing was deserving of the death penalty.

Original text of the Nicene Creed: “We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible. **And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God, Light of light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance (homoousion) with the Father**”

Wayne Grudem; *Systematic Theology*; p. 244

Col 1:15-20 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰and through Him to

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reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Heb 1:1-4 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

Continue reading through v. 14!!

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Men, even many professing Christians (then and now) did not and still do not comprehend this truth of who Jesus the Christ is. Men seek to reject who He really is because it is an offense to their very nature of being in darkness without the regeneration of the heart into a new creation in Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. !!!

Eph 2:13-22 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. ¹⁷AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; ¹⁸for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

II. Arianism Then: 2nd century (190 AD) to the 3rd century (AD).

A. Relevant Promoter(s) of this Heresy

- Arius (256-336) a presbyter (pastor) at Alexandria.
- Lucian of Antioch was the teacher of Arius

B. Important Christian Apologists Against Arianism:

Athanasius the Great: (298 - 373) He became known as “Athanasius Against the World” in the matter of opposing Arianism as heretical even opposing the Roman Emperor in this critical doctrinal issue.

III. Arianism Now: (20th / 21st Century)

Read Attachment #1964 The Ghost of Arianism in the Church Today

Modern equivalent of Arianism taught in:

- Jehovah's Witnesses,
- International Church of Ageless Wisdom,
- Children of God,
- Extreme Unitarians,
- Christadelphians,
- The Way International.

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The existence of Arianism in these “remnant” / “minor” denominations does not bother me much, but what does bother me is the likelihood of Evangelical churches who don’t teach orthodox doctrine slipping into these kinds of ancient heresies and spreading these ancient heresies widely, causing the “Church” to fail in serving Christ and winning the world with the gospel of Christ!

Important Quotes

Doctrine Matters - it matters in life and in death. Our doctrine determines our destiny. It not only affects our view about God but our view about everything. We are doctrinal beings by nature. Everyone holds to some sort of doctrine; the question is whether or not our doctrine is biblical. Consequently, we dare not be indifferent about doctrine. Indeed, there is a reason we've never heard of a Christian martyr who was indifferent about doctrine. **Indifference about doctrine is the mother of every heresy in all of history**, and in our day indifference about doctrine is spreading like wildfire in the pulpits and pews of our churches. Ironically, the assertion that doctrine doesn't matter is in fact a doctrine in itself.

Burk Parsons; *TableTalk* magazine of 5/15; p. 2

Before the Christian Church goes into eclipse anywhere there must first be a corrupting of her simple basic theology. She simply gets a wrong answer to the question, "What is God like?" and goes on from there. Though she may continue to cling to a sound nominal creed, her practical working creed has become false. The masses of her adherents come to believe that God is different from what He actually is; and that is heresy of the most insidious kind. The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian Church today is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of Him - and of her. In all her prayers and labors this should have first place. We do the greatest service to the next generation of Christians by passing on to them undimmed and undiminished that noble concept of God which we received from our Hebrew and Christian fathers of generations past. This will prove of greater value to them than anything that art or science can devise.

A. W. Tozer; *The Knowledge of the Holy*; p. 12

A main speaker at the Berlin Congress in 1966 - "Let us never forget that we who stand in the historic stream of Christianity really believe that false doctrine, at those crucial points where false doctrine is heresy, is not a small thing. If we do not make clear by word and practice our position for truth as truth and against false doctrine, we are building a wall between the next generation and the gospel. And twenty years from now, men will point their finger back at us and say of us, this is the result of the flow of history . . . Evangelism which does not lead to purity of life and purity of doctrine is just as faulty and incomplete as an orthodoxy which does not lead to a concern for, and communication with, the lost."

Francis Schaeffer quote; found in **Iain Murray's**; *Evangelicalism Divided*; p. 76