

# Trinitarian Heresies

**Sabellianism/Modalism:** Named for a third century teacher, Sebellius, this idea suggests that God acts in three different “modes” but is only one Person.

**Athanasian Creed Statement**

**Bible Reference**

**Modern Examples**

**Arianism:** Named for the fourth century teacher Arius who taught that Jesus and the Holy Spirit were created by God the Father.

**Athanasian Creed Statement**

**Bible Reference**

**Modern Examples**

**Subordinationism:** Jesus and the Holy Spirit are eternal, divine beings, but they are of a lesser nature than the Father.

**Athanasian Creed Statement**

**Bible Reference**

**Modern Examples**

**Adoptionism:** This view teaches that Jesus was an ordinary man until, at His baptism, He was adopted by the Father and given supernatural powers and the status of “Son of God.”

**Athanasian Creed Statement**

**Bible Reference**

**Modern Examples**

**Unitarianism:** This view holds that there is a single God with no distinct Persons.

**Athanasian Creed Statement**

**Bible Reference**

**Modern Examples**

**Tritheism/Polytheism:** The three Persons described in Scripture are actually three distinct Gods.

**Athanasian Creed Statement**

**Bible Reference**

**Modern Examples**