

Monarchians

The Monarchians denied the doctrine of the Trinity. There were two principal classes of Monarchians.

(1) Dynamic—that Jesus was a mere Man, but energized by the Holy Spirit at baptism when he received the divine attributes. This was first proclaimed by Theodotus, 190 A.D., in Rome. Paul of Samosata taught (260) that God is one Person. Jesus was a divinely-begotten Man, not the Logos, Word (John 1:1 and 6), but raised to dignity and glory by the Logos.

(2) Modalistic Monarchianism. Sabellius is the most famous teacher of this doctrine. God the Father is the Source or Energy of all. The Son is the Father as Redeemer or Saviour; the Holy Spirit is the Father giving holiness to men. Hence the Son and Holy Spirit or only modes or activities of the one God.

(Nineteen Centuries of the Christian Church by Daniel Webster Kurtz, Elgin, Illinois: Brethren Publishing House, 1914, 38; Paragraph structure modified)