

## The Road to Nicea

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In the Old Catholic Age (c. A.D. 170 to 325), Christendom shifted from the biblical belief in one God toward a form of trinitarianism. The trinitarians of that age divided the personality of God in tritheistic fashion, and they denied the full deity of Jesus Christ by subordinating the second person of their trinity to the first person.

By 300, some form of trinitarianism and trinitarian baptism had become dominant in Christendom, but orthodox trinitarianism as we know it today had yet to be formulated clearly or established solidly. We will discuss how such a formulation occurred in the fourth century, focusing particularly on the two ecumenical councils crucial to this process: the Council of Nicea A.D. 325 and the Council of Constantinople in A.D. 381.

In the second and third centuries most Christians affirmed the absolute oneness of God and the full deity of Jesus Christ and did not think in trinitarian categories...

(The Trinitarian Controversy in the Fourth Century by David K. Bernard, Hazelwood, Missouri: Word Aflame Press, 1993, 9, Text and Paragraph Structure Modified)