

Trinitarianism Cannot Be Fully Apprehended

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Now I think I see so far, that if no middle term can be assigned between Sabellianism and Tritheism, no one can fully apprehend its meaning.

But if the Athanasian Creed teaches me that there are Three Persons in one Substance, and I ask what is the meaning of the term *Person*, and am told that God only understands it, what help to me is this against Sabellianism and Tritheism?

Or, again, if it be said that the term *Person* may be understood in part, but that the part which I understand *I cannot reconcile* with the other portions of the Athanasian doctrine, may I venture to ask what security against Sabellianism and Tritheism is afforded me by a doctrine which, its advocates admit, is irreconcilable with itself?

Besides, I am assured by one eminent Athanasian that a Divine Person is veritably an “individual intelligent Being;” and I am instructed by another, that He is *less* than an *individual intelligent Being*: as we have seen.

(The Creeds of Athanasius, Sabellius, and Swedenborg, Examined and Compared with Each Other, 2nd. ed., by Augustus Clissold, London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1873, 48, Text and Paragraph Structure Modified)