

Early and Modern Heresies Against the Trinity

Although Wikipedia is sometimes unreliable factually, I have checked these entries as being both informative and generally accurate (if I have missed anything, let me know!). I have made a few edits here and there. Other sources have been used when the Wikipedia articles are tagged as "having issues" or are inadequate from an Orthodox perspective. Fr Gregory

Subordinationism - <https://carm.org/subordinationism>

Modalism (all types, quirky but generally descriptively accurate!) - <https://trinities.org/blog/what-is-modalism/>

Sabellianism (as a form of Modalism) and Patripassianism - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabellianism>

Christological heresies (a useful short summary – author not Orthodox but has a good understanding): <https://www.efca.org/blog/understanding-scripture/christological-heresies>

Eunomianism (an extreme form of Arianism) - <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05605a.htm>

The Pneumatochians / Macedonians - <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12174a.htm>

Filioquism (excellent article by the Orthodox Jay Dyer) - <https://orthochristian.com/104360.html>

Tritheism - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tritheism>

Unitarianism - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitarianism>

Swedenborgianism – a form of Christomonism - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_Church_\(Swedenborgian\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_Church_(Swedenborgian))

Modern Nontrinitarian Groups

This "fair use" and under the same licence conditions extract from the Wikipedia page [Nontrinitarianism](#) is reliable from an Orthodox point of view. Links are clickable.

- [Christadelphians](#) hold the unitarian belief that although Jesus is the Son of God, this is only a relational title toward the Father who alone is truly God. Christ's personhood, therefore, is human not divine, (believing this to be necessary in order to save humans from their sins). The "Holy Spirit" terminology in the Bible is interpreted as referring to God's impersonal power, or God's character/mind (depending on the context).
- [Church of God General Conference \(Abrahamic Faith\)](#).
- The [Cooneyites](#) is a Christian sect that split from the [Two by Twos](#) in 1928 following [Edward Cooney's](#) excommunication from the main group; they deny the Living Witness Doctrine.
- [Iglesia ni Cristo](#) ([Tagalog](#) for *Church of Christ*) views Jesus as human but endowed by God with attributes not found in ordinary humans, though lacking attributes found in God. They contend that it is God's will to worship Jesus. INC rejects the Trinity as heresy, adopting a version of unitarianism.
- [Jehovah's Witnesses](#) (and other [Bible Student movement](#) groups such as the Associated Bible Students teach that [God the Father](#) is uniquely Almighty God. They consider Jesus to be "the First-begotten Son", God's only direct creation, and the very first creation by God. They give relative "worship" or "obeisance" (in the sense of *homage*, as to a king) to Christ, pray through him as God's only [high priest](#), consider him to be their [Mediator](#) and [Messiah](#). They believe that only the Father is without beginning, that the Father is greater

than the Son in all things, and that only the Father is worthy of "sacred service" (*latría*). They believe that the Son had a beginning, and was brought forth at a certain point, as "the firstborn of all creation" and "the only-begotten", as the pre-existent [Michael](#) and the "[Angel of the LORD](#)" of Exodus, that he left heaven to be born as a perfect human, as the Jewish Messiah and Redeemer, and that after his ascension to heaven he resumed his pre-human identity, but exalted to [God's right hand](#) until the last days. They do not believe that the Holy Spirit is an actual person, but consider it to be God's divine active force.

- [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#), informally known as the LDS Church, teaches that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct beings that are not united in substance, a view sometimes called [social trinitarianism](#). They believe the three individual deities are "one" in will or purpose, as Jesus was "one" with his disciples, and that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit constitute a single [godhead](#) united in purpose. Latter-day Saints believe that Christ is the Firstborn of the Father, that he is subordinate to God the Father (Matthew 26:39), and that Christ created the universe. Latter-day Saints do not subscribe to the ideas that Christ was unlike the Father in substance, that the Father could not appear on earth, or that Christ was adopted by the Father, as presented in Arianism. Latter-day Saints assert that both God and the resurrected Christ have perfected glorified, physical bodies, but do not otherwise classify deity in terms of substance. While Latter-day Saints regard God the Father as the supreme being and literal father of the spirits of all humankind, they also teach that Christ and the Holy Spirit are equally divine and that they share in the Father's "comprehension of all things".
- The [Members Church of God International](#) believes in the divinity of Christ but rejects the doctrine of Trinity.
- [Oneness Pentecostalism](#) is a subset of [Pentecostalism](#) that believes God is only one person, and that he manifests himself in different ways, faces, or "modes": "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost) are different designations for the one God. God is the Father. God is the Holy Spirit. The Son is God manifest in flesh. The term Son always refers to the [Incarnation](#), and never to deity apart from humanity." Oneness Pentecostals believe that Jesus was "Son" only when he became flesh on earth, but was the Father prior to being made human. They refer to the Father as the "Spirit" and the Son as the "Flesh". Oneness Pentecostals reject the Trinity doctrine, viewing it as pagan and unscriptural, and hold to the [Jesus' Name doctrine](#) with respect to baptisms. Oneness Pentecostals are often referred to as "[Modalists](#)" or "[Sabellians](#)" or "Jesus Only".
- Denominations within the [Sabbatarian](#) tradition ([Armstrongism](#)) believe that Christ the Son and God the Father are co-eternal, but do not teach that the Holy Spirit is a being or person. Armstrong theology holds that God is a "Family" that expands eventually, that "God reproduces Himself", but that originally there was a co-eternal "Duality", God and the Word, rather than a "Trinity".
- [Swedenborgianism](#) holds that the Trinity exists in one person, the Lord God Jesus Christ. The Father, the being or soul of God, was born into the world and put on a body from [Mary](#). Throughout his life, Jesus put away all human desires and tendencies until he was completely divine. After his resurrection, he influences the world through the Holy Spirit, which is his activity. In this view, Jesus Christ is the one God; the Father as to his soul, the Son as to his body, and the Holy Spirit as to his activity in the world.
- Numerous [Unitarian Christian organizations](#) exist around the world, the oldest of which is the [Unitarian Church of Transylvania](#). An [umbrella organization](#) for these groups is the [International Council of Unitarians and Universalists](#), though only some members and affiliates of that body consider themselves exclusively or predominantly Christian. In the United States, "Unitarian" often refers to members and congregations within the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#) (UUA), a non-Christian group formed in 1961 from the merger of the [American Unitarian Association](#) with the [Universalist Church of America](#). Though both of these predecessor groups were originally Christian, the UUA does not have a shared creed and does not identify as a Christian Unitarian organization.