

**Introduction:**

- Foundational Principles
- In this divine and infinite Being there are three subsistences, the Father, the Word or Son, and Holy Spirit, of one substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence, yet the essence undivided: the Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and the Son; all infinite, without beginning, therefore but one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being, but distinguished by several peculiar relative properties and personal relations; which doctrine of the Trinity is the foundation of all our communion with God, and comfortable dependence on Him. (2LBC Ch2 Par3)

**The fact that our God is one divine being existing in three distinct persons is the hinge pin of all our theology!**

I. **Ontological Trinity (Q24)**

- A. Essence/Substance
- B. Person/Subsistence
- C. Eternal Roles
  - 1. Father
    - i. Paternity/Active Generation/Active Spiration
  - 2. Son
    - i. Filiation/Passive Generation/Active Spiration
  - 3. Holy Spirit
    - i. Passive Spiration (Procession)
- D. Subordinationism

**The Ontological Trinity is mirrored in the Economic**

II. **Economic Trinity (Q23)**

- A. Works
  - 1. Opera ad intra (Internal Works)
  - 2. Opera ad extra (External Works)

III. **Heretical Views**

- A. Heresies
  - 1. Modalism (Sabellianism or Monarchianism)
  - 2. Arianism

IV. **Why it matters**

- A. Refutes errors in other views
- B. Foundation for all Christian doctrines
- C. It is how our God has revealed Himself!

**Question 23:**

Into how many parts is the Creed divided?

*Answer:*

Into three: the first of the eternal Father, and our creation; the second of the Son, and our redemption; and the third of the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.

**Question 24:**

Seeing there is but one only substance of God, why do you name those three, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

*Answer:*

Because God has manifested Himself in His Word that these three distinct persons are that one true everlasting God.

