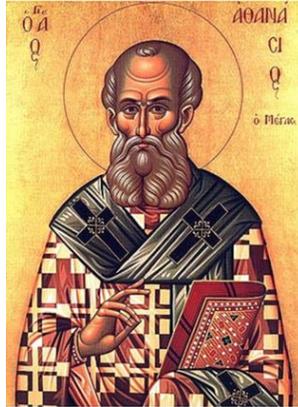


Contending For Our All: Athanasius

*We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
begotten from the Father, only-begotten, that is,
from the substance of the Father, God from God,
light from light, true God from true God, begotten
not made, of one substance with the Father,
through Whom all things came into being, things
in heaven and things on earth, Who because of
us men and because of our salvation came
down, and became incarnate and became man,
and suffered, and rose again on the third day,
and ascended to the heavens, and will come to
judge the living and dead,
And in the Holy Spirit.*



*But those who say: 'There was a time when he was not;' and 'He was not
before he was made;' and 'He was made out of nothing,' or 'He is of
another substance' or 'essence,' or 'The Son of God is created,' or
'changeable,' or 'alterable'—they are condemned by the holy catholic
and apostolic Church.*

Nicaean creed, Council of Nicaea, 325

*"the heresy which attacks Christ has no communion with the catholic
church"*

Athanasius' view on Arius' teaching

*"I find the cause to be of a truly insignificant character, and quite
unworthy of such fierce contention."*

Constantine's opinion on the whole debate

*"If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound
instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, they are
conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in
controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife,
malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between people of
corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth" 1 Tim 6:3-5*

*"the renewal of creation has been wrought by the Self-same Word Who
made it in the beginning."*

*"What—or rather Who was it that was needed for such grace and such
recall as we required? Who, save the Word of God Himself, Who also in
the beginning had made all things out of nothing? His part it was, and
His alone, both to bring again the corruptible to incorruption and to
maintain for the Father His consistency of character with all. For He
alone, being Word of the Father and above all, was in consequence both
able to recreate all, and worthy to suffer on behalf of all and to be an
ambassador for all with the Father."*

Athanasius on why he believed Jesus is fully God

“It beseems us to pray for all those that are in error” “Right indeed is it to pity their dupes; well it is to weep over them”

Athanasius on how we should think about those who oppose us

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, eternally begotten from the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who because of us men and because of our salvation came down from heaven. By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and became man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and rose again on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Expanded Nicene Creed, Council of Constantinople, 381