Heresies Past: What were they and where are they now?

by Sandy Simpson, 2/20/19

You might be surprised to find out that many of the heresies of the early centuries are still around today. Many of them have been modified to some degree, but they are mostly the same unbiblical heretical ideas. When you toy around with core doctrines like the Trinity and the Hypostatic Union, you prove yourself to be a heretical false teacher.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So ***there is nothing new under the sun.***

Adoptionism (https://www.gotquestions.org/adoptionism.html) - God granted Jesus powers and then adopted him as a Son.

Adoptionism is a heretical theology that claims Jesus was God's *adopted* Son. Adoptionism teaches that, because of Jesus' sinless life, God chose Him and adopted Him. Adoptionism also goes by the name dynamic Monarchianism.

- **John 1:1, 14:** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". This passage establishes the Word (Christ) as eternal and divine, existing before creation and becoming incarnate, which contradicts the idea of a human being "adopted" later.

- **How it refutes Adoptionism:** This passage directly states that the "Word" (identified as Christ in verse 14) was with God and was God *before* the creation of the world, contradicting the Adoptionist view that Jesus was a mere human adopted by God.

- **Matthew 11:27:** "All things have been given to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him".
    - **How it refutes Adoptionism:** This verse speaks of a unique and eternal relationship between the Father and the Son, where knowledge of each other is unique to them. This is not a relationship of a human and a God who adopted him, but of two divine persons who know each other intimately.

Recommended Resource: The Moody Handbook of Theology by Paul Enns

Present-day groups teaching a form of Adoptionism: Unitarians, Mormons, Community of Christ, Word of Faith churches

Individuals teaching a form of Adoptionism: Joseph Priestley, James Strang, Anton Bosch

Albigenses or Catharsis (https://carm.org/albigenses) - Reincarnation and two gods: one good and other evil.

Albigenses was a heresy during the middle ages that developed in the town Albi in Southern France. This error taught that there were two gods: the good god of light usually referred to as Jesus in the New Testament and the god of darkness and evil usually associated with Satan and sometimes even the "God of the Old Testament."

- **Genesis 1:31:** "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good". This refutes the idea that the material creation is inherently evil.
- **1 Timothy 4:4:** "For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving".
- **Acts 17:24:** "The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man". This confirms the singular good God as the creator of all, not a lesser evil deity.
- **Isaiah 45:18:** "For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it a chaos, he formed it to be inhabited!): 'I am the Lord, and there is no other'". This counters the dualistic idea of two opposing creators.

Apollinarianism (https://www.gotquestions.org/Apollinarianism.html) - Jesus' divine will overshadowed and replaced the human.

Apollinarianism was the heresy taught by Apollinaris the Younger, bishop of Laodicea in Syria about 361. At the time when the doctrine of the Trinity was being established in an official sense, he taught that the Logos of God, which became the divine nature of Christ, took the place of the rational human soul of Jesus and that the body of Christ was a glorified form of human nature. In other words, though Jesus was a man, He did not have a human mind but that the mind of Christ was solely divine.

- **Hebrews 4:15**: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—without sin". This verse is crucial because it directly challenges Apollinarianism, which claimed Christ's divine mind prevented him from being truly tempted in all ways like humans. If Christ had a divine mind in place of a human one, he could not have been "touched with the feeling of our infirmities".
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23**: "May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ". This verse distinguishes three parts of a person—spirit, soul, and body—which is a direct refutation of the Apollinarian view that Christ's human spirit was replaced by the divine *Logos*.
- **Hebrews 5:8-9**: "and although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him". This shows that Jesus, as a human being, learned and grew, which would have been impossible if his mind had been the divine, all-knowing mind of God from the start.

Present-day groups that teach Appolinarianism: Eastern Orthodox

Arianism (https://www.gotquestions.org/arianism.html) - Jesus was a lesser, created being.

It was the greatest of heresies within the early church that developed a significant following. Some say, it almost took over the church. Arius taught that only God the Father was eternal and too pure and infinite to appear on the earth.

Verses that refute Arianism focus on Jesus's divine nature, such as John 1:1, which states the Word was with God and the Word was God; Hebrews 1:3, describing Jesus as the radiance of God's glory and the exact image of his substance; and Colossians 2:9, asserting that the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ. These passages directly counter the Arian belief that Jesus was a created being and less than God.

Present-day groups that teach a form of Arianism: Jehovah's Witnesses, Watchtower Bible & Tract Society

Docetism (https://www.gotquestions.org/Docetism.html) - Jesus was divine but only seemed to be human.

Docetism was an error with several variations concerning the nature of Christ. Generally, it taught that Jesus only appeared to have a body--that he was not really incarnate (Greek, "dokeo" = "to seem").

Verses in the New Testament that refute Docetism emphasize Jesus' humanity, particularly in 1 John, 2 John, and passages that detail his physical suffering and resurrection. Specifically, these verses state that Jesus came **"in the flesh,"** a direct refutation of the Docetic belief that he was only a spiritual being or phantom.

Present-day groups that teach Docetism: Gnostics, Jehovah's Witnesses, George Canty of the Elim movement

Donatism (https://www.gotquestions.org/donatism.html) - Validity of sacraments depends on the character of the minister.

Donatism was the error taught by Donatus, bishop of Casae Nigrae, that the effectiveness of the sacraments depends on the moral character of the minister. In other words, if a minister who was involved in a serious enough sin were to baptize a person, that baptism would be considered invalid.

- **Galatians 6:1:** "Brothers, if someone is caught in a trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him with a spirit of gentleness".
- **Isaiah 19:** The prophecy cited by Augustine to argue that even those who reject them are still "brethren" because of their shared spiritual birth.
- **Matthew 26:52:** Jesus's instruction, "Those who live by the sword shall die by the sword," was used to highlight the violence of the Donatists.

Present-day groups that teach a form of Donatism: Roman Catholicism, Russian Orthodox, New Apostolic, Third Wave

Eutychianism (https://www.gotquestions.org/monophysitism.html) - Jesus finite human nature is swallowed up in His infinite divine nature.

Monophysitism is an erroneous or heretical view concerning the nature of Jesus Christ. Two monophysite schools of thought are Eutychianism and Apollinarianism. Monophysitism taught that Christ has one nature—a divine one—not two. Eutychianism specifically taught that Christ's divine nature was so intermixed with His human nature that He was, in fact, not fully human and not fully divine.

Verses that refute Eutychianism include John \(1:14\) and Philippians \(2:6-8\), which affirm Christ's full humanity, and Hebrews \(2:14-17\), which highlights his true humanity as essential for his role as a mediator and for atonement. Other biblical evidence for Jesus's full humanity includes passages where he experiences physical and emotional aspects of human life, like being tired, hungry, or asleep.

Present-day groups that teach a form of Eutychianism: some Oriental Orthodox

(Christian) Gnosticism (https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-gnosticism.html) - Dualism of good and bad and special revelation knowledge for salvation.

Gnosticism traces its roots back just after the beginning of the Christian Church. Some researchers state that evidence of its existence even predates Christianity. Whichever the case, the error of Gnosticism had affected the culture and church of the time and possibly even earned a mention in 1 John 4.
The word "Gnosticism" comes from the Greek word "gnosis" which means "knowledge." There were many groups that were Gnostic and it isn't possible to easily describe the nuances of each variant of Gnostic doctrines. However, generally speaking, Gnosticism taught that salvation is achieved through special knowledge (gnosis).

- **Colossians 2:8:** "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ". This verse directly opposes Gnosticism's reliance on worldly philosophy and "human tradition" instead of Christ.
- **1 Timothy 6:20-21:** "O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called 'knowledge,' for by professing it some have swerved from the faith". This passage warns against those who claim special knowledge, stating it leads people away from the faith.
- **1 Corinthians 8:1:** "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up," is a verse often cited against Gnosticism, which emphasized "knowledge" (Gnosis) as a means of elevation.

Individuals that taught Gnosticism: Simon Magus (Simon the Sorcerer)

Present-day groups that teach a form of Gnosticism (particularly secret revelation knowledge): New Apostolic Reformation, Word of Faith, Third Wave

Kenosis (https://www.gotquestions.org/kenosis.html) - Jesus gave up some divine attributes while on earth.

The term *kenosis* comes from the Greek word for the doctrine of Christ's self-emptying in His incarnation. **The kenosis was a self-renunciation, not an emptying Himself of deity nor an exchange of deity for humanity.** Philippians 2:7 tells us that Jesus "emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men." Jesus did not cease to be God during His earthly ministry. But He did set aside His heavenly glory of a face-to-face relationship with God. He also set aside His independent authority. During His earthly ministry, Christ completely submitted Himself to the will of the Father.

While no single Bible verse directly refutes what we might call hyper-Kenosis, verses that demonstrate Jesus's unchanging divine nature, power, and eternal glory are often cited as being inconsistent with the

idea that He gave up divine attributes. Key passages include John 1:14, which calls Jesus "the Word" and "full of grace and truth," and Hebrews 13:8, which states that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever". Other verses, like Colossians 1:15-17, show Jesus's role in creating and sustaining the universe, which argues against any period of "emptying" of divine power or essence, as cited by TheosU and Bible.org https://www.theosu.ca/course/kenosis,.

Present-day groups that teach a form of Kenosis: Bill Johnson (Bethel Church), some Latter Rain/New Apostolic, Word of Faith

Marcionism (https://www.gotquestions.org/marcionism.html) - An evil God of the O.T., good God of the N.T., only 11 books in the Canon

Marcionism was a religious movement based on the teachings of the 2nd-century heretic Marcion of Sinope. While none of Marcion's writings have survived to the present, we know of his teachings through several early Christian writers including Justin Martyr (AD 100—165), Irenaeus of Lyons (AD 130—200) and Hippolytus (AD 170—235). These men combated Marcion in defense of the truth. **Marcion held to many errant views, but he is primarily known for his belief that the Old Testament Scriptures were not authoritative for a Christian.** He denied that the God of the Old Testament was the same God presented in the New Testament. For Marcion, Jesus was the Son of the God of the New Testament but not the Son of the deity described in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Against the separation of Old and New Testaments

- **Matthew 5:17:** Jesus states, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them". This verse directly refutes Marcion's idea that the Old Testament law was irrelevant or evil.

Against the dualistic view of God

- **James 1:17:** This verse is used to show God's consistency and immutability, stating that "every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow". This contradicts Marcion's idea of two separate gods.

Against the rejection of the Law

- **Romans 7:12:** Paul states that the "law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good," affirming its goodness, which Marcion rejected.

Groups that teach a form of Marcionism: Red-letter Christians, John Darby

Modalism (Modalistic Monarchianism) (https://www.gotquestions.org/Modalistic-Monarchianism.html) - God is one person in three modes.

Modalism is probably the most common theological error concerning the nature of God. It is a denial of the Trinity. Modalism states that God is a single person who, throughout biblical history, has revealed Himself in three modes or forms. Thus, God is a single person who first manifested himself in the mode of the Father in Old Testament times. At the incarnation, the mode was the Son; and

after Jesus' ascension, the mode is the Holy Spirit. These modes are consecutive and never simultaneous. In other words, this view states that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit never all exist at the same time--only one after another. Modalism denies the distinctiveness of the three persons in the Trinity even though it retains the divinity of Christ.

Present-day groups that hold to forms of this Modalism: Oneness Pentecostals, the United Pentecostal and United Apostolic Churches. They deny the Trinity, teach that the name of God is Jesus, and require baptism for salvation. These Modalist churches often accuse Trinitarians of teaching three gods. This is not what the Trinity is. The correct teaching of the Trinity is one God in three eternal coexistent persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Biblically the biggest problem with modalism is that you end up having God talking to himself several times in the NT.

The idea of modalism is simple enough - God has different "modes" of being, kind of like an actor who simply appears with different masks in different situations [1]. If the same person is merely appearing in multiple forms simultaneously, there are some weird situations in Scripture that result, and have implications that are dicey.

When Jesus is Baptised, a voice from heaven declares, "This is my son, with whom I am well pleased". If Jesus is just a different view of the same God, why would he say something like this, to himself? It makes God seem a bit arrogant, frankly.

Groups that teach a form of Modalism: William Branham, Branhamites, United Pentecostals, and others associated with Oneness Pentecostalism who subscribe to the nontrinitarian theological doctrine of Oneness.

(Dynamic) Monarchianism (https://www.gotquestions.org/Dynamic-Monarchianism.html) - God is one person.

In the first centuries of the church, there was much debate about the nature of God: was Jesus fully God, fully man, or some mixture of the two? Does God exist as three co-eternal, co-equal Persons, or is He only one Person who manifests Himself in different modes at different times? What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Father? Part of the debate in the second and third centuries involved a teaching known as Dynamic Monarchianism, a false view of Christ's nature. Monarchianism taught the indivisible unity of God (the Latin word *monarchia* meant "single rule"). Of course, belief in one God is foundational to Christianity, but Monarchianism pressed monotheism to the point of denying God's triune nature. Monarchianism inevitably leads to the false doctrine of Patripassianism, the teaching that God the Father suffered on the cross with (or as) the Son.

Verses showing distinct persons

- **Jesus' baptism in Mark 1:9-11 (and parallels in Matthew 3:16-17 and Luke 3:21-22):** The Son is baptized, the Holy Spirit descends on Him, and the Father speaks from heaven, saying, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased". This shows three distinct persons acting simultaneously.

- **Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:39, Mark 14:35-36, Luke 22:41-42):** Jesus prays to the Father, an act that would be meaningless if He and the Father were the same person in different modes.
- **Jesus sends the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17, 15:26):** Jesus asks the Father to send the Spirit, which demonstrates a relationship between distinct persons, not a single person manifesting in different ways.

Verses affirming the full deity of the Son

- **John 1:1, 14:** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh". This establishes the Son's eternal existence and full divinity.

Groups that hold to Monarchianism: Witness Lee and The Local Church, United Pentecostals, and others associated with Oneness Pentecostalism who subscribe to the nontrinitarian theological doctrine of Oneness.

Monophysitism (https://www.gotquestions.org/Monophysticism.html) - Jesus finite human nature is swallowed up in His infinite divine nature.

Monophysitism is an erroneous or heretical view concerning the nature of Jesus Christ. Two monophysite schools of thought are Eutychianism and Apollinarianism. Monophysitism taught that Christ has one nature—a divine one—not two. Eutychianism specifically taught that Christ's divine nature was so intermixed with His human nature that He was, in fact, not fully human and not fully divine.

Verses that refute Monophysitism often highlight Christ's full humanity and divinity, which Monophysitism denies. Examples include **John 1:14** ("The Word became flesh") and **Philippians 2:6-8** (describing Christ as "existing in the form of God" yet also "being made in human likeness"), as well as **Hebrews 2:14** (stating Christ "shared in flesh and blood"). These passages are used to argue that Christ possessed two distinct natures, divine and human, united in one person, without confusion or separation or the Hypostatic Union.

Groups that teach a form of Monophysitism: some Oriental Orthodox

Nestorianism (https://www.gotquestions.org/Nestorianism.html) - Jesus was two persons.

Nestorianism is the error that Jesus is two distinct persons. The heresy is named after Nestorius who was born in Syria and died in A.D. 451 and who advocated this doctrine. Nestorius was a monk who became the Patriarch of Constantinople, and he repudiated the Marian title "Mother of God." He held that Mary was the mother of Christ only in respect to His humanity. The council of Ephesus was convened in 431 to address the issue and pronounced that Jesus was one person in two distinct and inseparable natures: divine and human.

Verses that refute Nestorianism, which incorrectly separates the human and divine natures of Jesus, include passages that affirm his full divinity and humanity in one person. Key verses are **John 1:14** ("the Word became flesh"), **Colossians 2:9** ("in him the whole fullness of the deity dwells bodily"), and **Philippians 2:6-7** (describing Christ as "in very nature God" who "emptied himself"), as well

as **Matthew 1:23** which quotes Isaiah to state that Jesus would be called "Immanuel," which means "God with us".

Groups that teach a form of Nestorianism: the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Church of the East & Abroad.

Patripassionism (https://www.gotquestions.org/Patripassianism.html) - The Father suffered on the cross.

Patripassionism is a theological error dealing with the Godhead which states that the Father became incarnate, was born, suffered, and died on the cross, hence, the Father's (patri) passion (suffer) on the cross. This is an error because we know that Jesus spoke to the person of the Father and that it was Jesus who went to the cross. If the Father and Son are the same person then how is it possible for the Father and Son to speak to one another and have separate wills? It is not. Therefore, the doctrine of Patripassianism is incorrect and heretical.

Verses that refute Patripassianism focus on the distinction between the Father and the Son, showing they are not the same person. Key examples include Jesus praying to the Father in the garden (Matthew 26:39), the Father speaking to the Son at his baptism (Mark 1:11), and the Son asking for the Father to send the Holy Spirit (John 14:16). These passages highlight separate roles and interactions, refuting the idea that the Father suffered and died on the cross.

Groups that teach a form of Patripassionism: The Shack (book and movie)

Hyper semi-Pelagianism/Arminianism (https://www.gotquestions.org/arminianism.html) - Man and God cooperate to achieve man's salvation, man did not fall so far as to not be able to exercise his freewill to believe in Jesus Christ. Some may become angry about this but if only one of the five core precepts of Arminianism is wrong, then the concept as a whole is false teaching that can deceive people. Read my paper on Calvinism/Arminianism here (http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/osas2.html).

Verses that refute semi-Pelagianism emphasize humanity's inability to initiate salvation and the necessity of God's prior grace, such as John 6:44 ("No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him"), Ephesians 2:5 which states God made believers "alive together with Christ," and Romans 3:10-18, which details the universal sinfulness of all people. These passages, along with verses like 1 Corinthians 12:3 ("No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit"), argue against the semi-Pelagian belief that a person can, on their own, take the first step toward God. For a person to be saved they must hear the true Gospel, be convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit, believe that God came in the flesh, confess and repent of sin. They then can be born again.

Denominations that teach this: American Baptist Churches USA, The United Methodist Church, Wesleyan Churches, Pentecostal Churches and The Church of the Nazarene among others.

Hyper-Calvinism (https://www.gotquestions.org/hyper-calvinism.html) - God predestined people to heaven or hell without the prerequisite of omniscience. People then need not believe in Jesus Christ to be saved. Some may become angry about this but if only one of the five core precepts of Calvinism is wrong, then it is false teaching that can deceive people. Read my paper on Calvinism/Arminianism here (http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/osas2.html).

Verses often cited to refute Hyper-Calvinism focus on God's universal love and desire for all to be saved, the free offer of the gospel, and the responsibility of humans to respond to that offer. Key scriptures include **John 3:16**, **1 Timothy 2:4-6**, **1 John 2:2**, and **Matthew 11:28**, which emphasize a broader scope of God's redemptive plan and call to repentance than a strict interpretation of Hyper-Calvinism allows.

Denominations that teach this: Primitive Baptist or Reformed Baptist Churches, Presbyterian Churches, Reformed Churches, The United Church of Christ and The Protestant Reformed Churches in America, Christian Reformed World Mission among others.

Socinianism (https://www.gotquestions.org/Socinianism.html) - Denial of the Trinity. Jesus is a deified man.

Socinianism is an unorthodox form of non-trinitarianism that was developed around the same time as the Protestant Reformation (1517-1648) by Italian humanist Lelio Sozzini and later promulgated by his cousin, Fausto Sozzini. In modern times Socinianism has been referred to as psilanthropism, the view that Jesus was merely human (from the Greek psilo meaning “merely/only” and anthropos meaning “man/human being”), a view rejected by the First Council of Nicaea. The Socinians held to a rationalistic approach to Scripture and to faith. This philosophical approach, especially in regard to biblical doctrine, declares that all religious matters must be fully reconcilable with human reason, and that theological matters pertaining to the nature of God cannot be beyond the finite understanding of the human mind. This idea clearly contradicts the Bible, which affirms the supernatural essence of God and the impossibility of the finite mind fully comprehending the infinite (Job 9:10; Isaiah 55:8-11; Romans 11:33).

Verses that refute Socinianism often cite the deity of Christ, the atonement, and the Trinity, as Socinianism denies these doctrines. Examples include verses that affirm Jesus's pre-human existence (John 8:58), the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14), Christ's role as a ransom for sins (1 Timothy 2:5-6), and the Biblical view of original sin (Romans 5:12).

Groups that teach Socinianism: William Branham, Branhamites, Unitarians, Christodelphians, but also includes groups like Bio Logos that deny the more supernaturalistic claims of Scripture in subjection to modern scientific theory and have renowned modern proponents, like Tim Keller of Redeemer Bible Church.

Subordinationism (https://www.gotquestions.org/subordination-Trinity.html) - The Son is lesser than the Father in essence and or attributes.

Subordinationism is a heresy concerning the Trinity. Subordinationism (Jesus is different in nature than the Father) **should not be confused with subordination (the Son submitting to the Father).** Subordinationism is a heresy concerning the Father and Son though sometimes the Holy Spirit is included. The error has different forms; but it is primarily the teaching that the Son is not eternal and divine (Arian Subordinationism) and is, therefore, not equal to the Father in being and attributes. This is, of course, wrong; and it is in contrast to the biblical doctrine of the Economic Trinity (the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) which does not deny their equality of nature and attributes. Another form of Subordinationism states that though the Son is divine, he is not equal to the Father in being, attributes, and rank. This error was rejected at the Council of Nicea. Essentially, subordinationism states that the Son is inferior to the Father. Subordinationism is not the same as Christ's subordination

to the Father (1 Cor. 15:28) which concerns Jesus' continued state of being a man (1 Tim. 2:5) by which he lives forever to intercede for us as a high priest (Heb. 6:20; 7:25).

Verses often cited to refute subordinationism argue for the equality of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, emphasizing their unity in being and divinity. Passages such as **John 1:1** and **John 10:30** state that Jesus is God and one with the Father, while verses like **Hebrews 1:8** record the Father calling the Son "God" and **1 Corinthians 12:4–6** highlight the unified activity of the one God working through different ministries. **1 Corinthians 11:3** is also interpreted by some as defining an order of headship rather than an inequality in divine nature.

Groups that teach Subordinationism: Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses and Iglesia ni Cristo.

Tritheism (https://www.gotquestions.org/Tritheism-Trinity.html) - The Trinity is really three separate gods.

Tritheism is the teaching that the Godhead is really three separate beings forming three separate gods. This errant view is often misplaced by the cults for the doctrine of the Trinity which states that there is but one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Trinity is, by definition, monotheistic. That is, it is a doctrine that affirms that there is only one God in the entire universe.

Verses often cited to refute Tritheism include the Old Testament's declarations of God's oneness, such as Deuteronomy 6:4 ("Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one"). The New Testament also contains verses that can be interpreted as refuting the idea of three separate gods, like Matthew 22:37 which quotes the greatest commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart..." implying a singular God. Some arguments also point to the concept of God's unity expressed in Mark 13:32 where Jesus states he does not know the hour, as a point against an omniscient, singular God.

Groups that teach Tritheism: Aloha ke Akua (Io plus 4 other Hawaiian supreme beings), Mormonism, Freemasonry and other associated orders (Freemasonry worships a Tritheistic “god” called Jahbulon made up of Yahweh, Baal and Osiris)