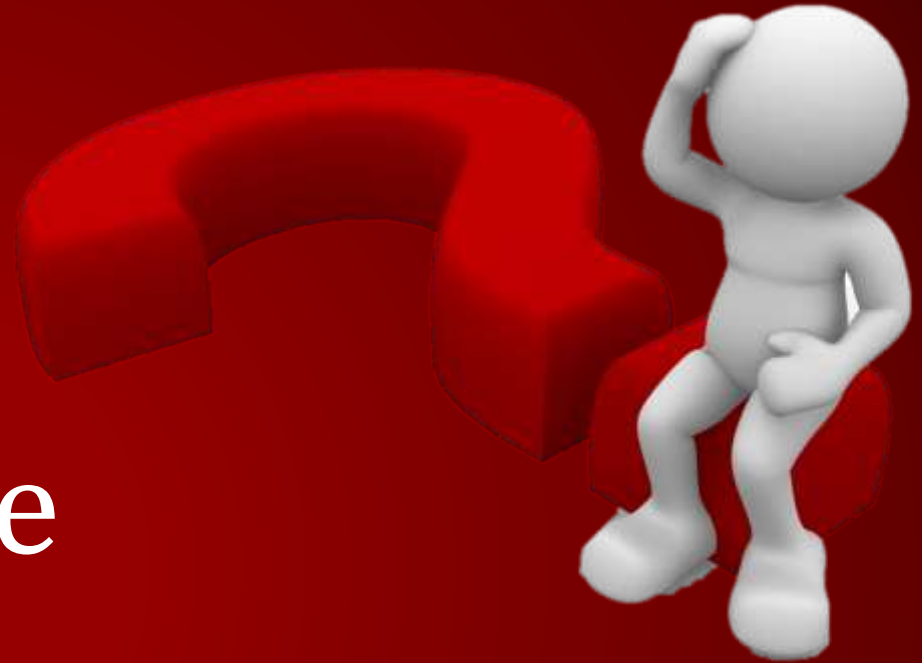


SO....

The Father is God,  
Jesus is God, and the  
Holy Spirit is God.

But I thought God is ONE... in  
number and substance?!?



# WHICH OF THESE IS TRUE??

## UNITY

- GOD IS ONE  
(in number  
and substance)

**AND**

## TRINITY

- The Father is God
- The Son is God
- The Holy Spirit is God

**According to the Bible,  
both of these are true!**

1 = ▾ = 3



Hold the  
Tension



# THE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY

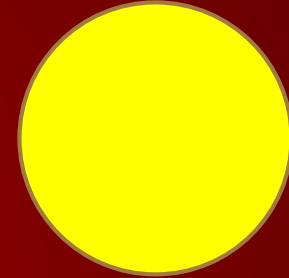
- **PONDER** IT
- **BE AMAZED** BY IT
- DO NOT TRY TO “**SOLVE**” IT
- IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE “**SOLVED**” THE TRINITY, YOU HAVE TREAD UPON HERESY



# NOT HOLDING THE TENSION LEADS TO EITHER:

- **Modalism** (one God, one person)

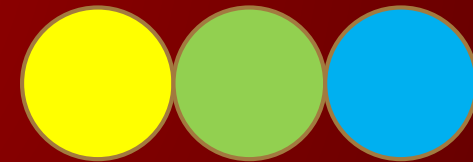
- All three “members” are really only one person
- God expresses Himself in three different ways
- Analogy: 3-phase Water (Ice, Liquid, Steam)



**OR**

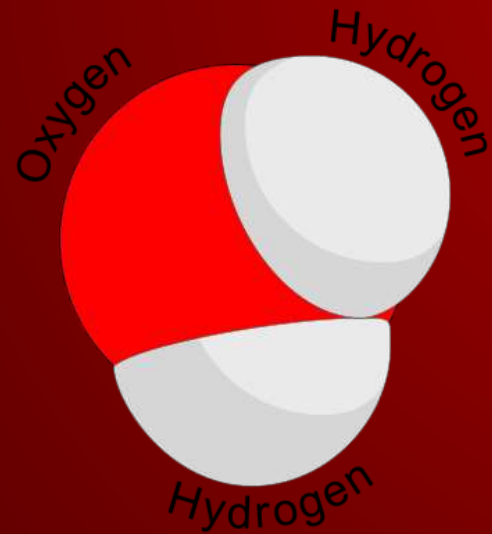
- **Tritheism** (three Gods, three persons)

- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three different entities
- They might be of similar “substance” but they are separate





# PROBABLY BEST TO AVOID ANALOGIES



=

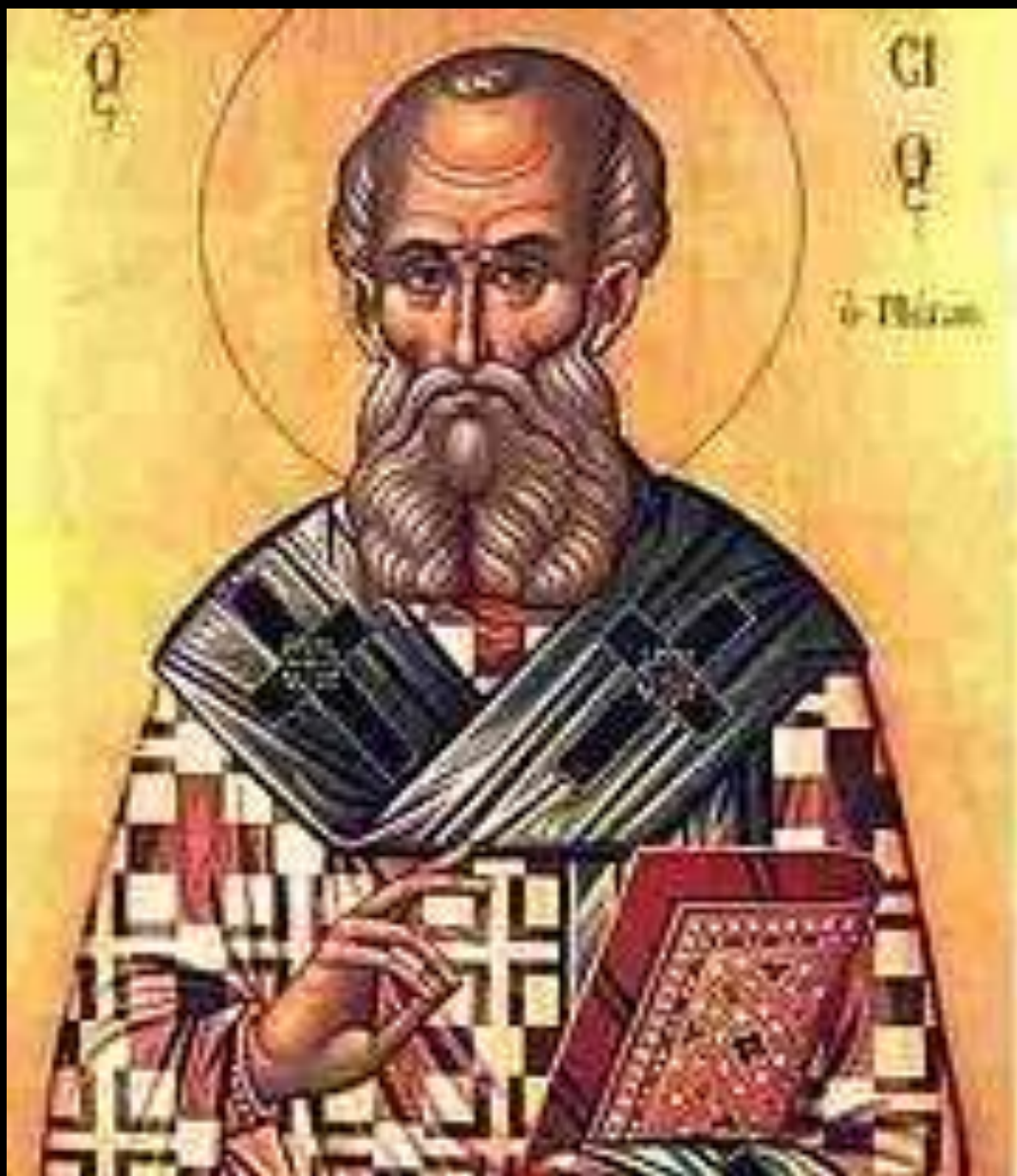




# NICENE CREED (325, 381 A.D.)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, creator of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of the same essence with the Father... We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.





# ATHANASIAN CREED (500 A.D.)

We worship One God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, **neither confounding the Persons nor dividing the substance.** For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is One, the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal.



# WE BELIEVE IN **ONE GOD**

eternally existing as three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—each of whom is fully God and all of whom are equal; distinct in personhood and function; one in Godhood, substance, and purpose

# SOME MYSTERIES TO HOLD IN TENSION

- The Trinity
- The Incarnation
- The Death of Christ
- God's Sovereignty and Human Free Will
- God Existing in Eternity and Acting in Time





# APPROACHING GOD'S MYSTERIES

- **DON'T TOUCH!**  
“don't even think about it”  
Eastern Orthodox Christianity
- **GO AHEAD AND EAT!**  
“solve it at any cost”  
Heretical Christianity
- **DON'T EAT!**  
“think about it, but don't solve”  
Evangelical Christianity



# IMPORTANT WORDS IN VERSE 2

