

Teachings about God the Father

"My hope is the Father, my refuge is the Son, my protection is the Holy Spirit: O Holy Trinity, glory to Thee." (Prayer of Saint Ioannikios)

"It is not in anyone's power to think about God, because it can only be done by those who have cleansed their soul and body ..." (Saint Gregory the Theologian)

"1. I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible."



The main teaching of the Church's faith is the **dogma of the Holy Trinity**, according to which **God is one in essence but three in persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**. The divine being exists whole in every Person of the Holy Trinity.

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is the central teaching outlined in the Symbol of Faith, the Creed.

The first article of the Creed presents the teaching about God the Father. He is the first Person of the Holy Trinity.

We call **God**, the **Father** because He begets the **Son**, and from Him the **Holy Spirit** proceeds. That is, the Son and the Holy Spirit owe their existence to the Father, Who **always** gives birth to the Son and proceeds the Holy Spirit.

We also name **God** "**the Father**" because that is how our Lord Jesus Christ taught us and because He is our Creator and desires our well-being and our

salvation.

God "the Father" is "Almighty" because the entire creation owes Him its existence, and He sustains everything with His love and mercy.

Through the expression "maker of Heaven and Earth, and of all things visible and invisible", we confess that God the Father is the **Creator** of the entire universe, and also of the spiritual world of angels.

God the Father made the entire creation out of love and cares for it through His boundless wisdom and grace. For these reasons God the Father is also called God the Creator.

Teachings about God the Son

“2. And in One Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through whom all things were made.

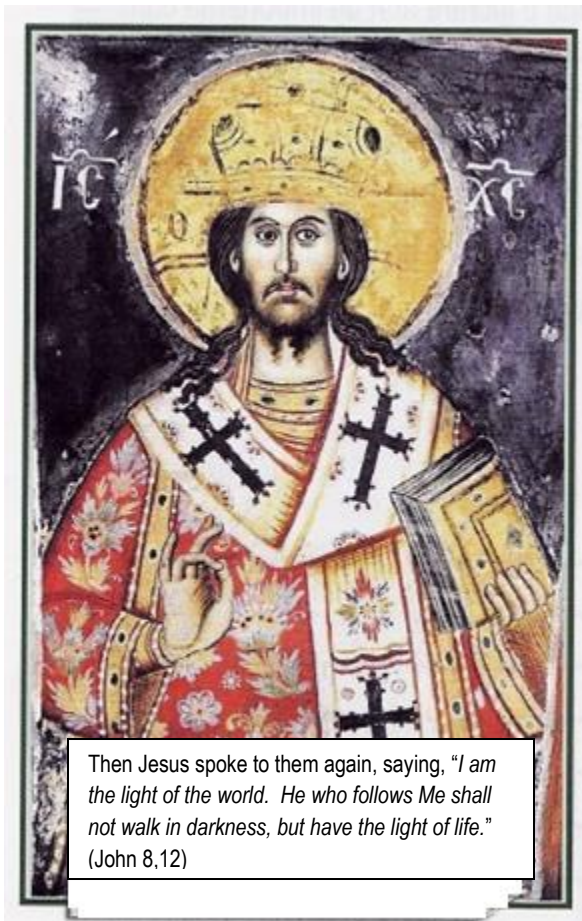
3. For us and for our salvation, He came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.

4. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and He suffered and was buried.

5. On the third day, He rose according to the Scriptures.

6. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

7. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end.”



God the Son, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, is also named the “Word of God” or “God the Word”.

We say that He is the Son of God because He was born of the Father from eternity, "before all ages." The birth of the Son of God remains a mystery which we cannot understand; it is impenetrable for the human mind.

The Church teaches us that the Son of God is true God “of true God” and that He is “of one essence with the Father”, just like a fire starts from another fire (“Light of Light”).

We know of the Son that through Him "all things are done." So we must understand that the Father worked together with the Son and the Holy Spirit at the creation of the world.

The most important work of the Son was His Incarnation "from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary." Remaining true God, He became a true man, that is, he became man and he lived as a man on this Earth.

God the Son was born of the Virgin Mary and eight days after birth he was named Jesus.

Jesus Christ, being true God and true man, was without sin.

During the reign of Pontius Pilate, our Lord Jesus Christ voluntarily accepted to suffer, to be crucified and to die for our salvation. He rose again on the third day and freed us from the bondage of death and sin.

Forty days after the Resurrection, He ascended into Heaven and till present times He "sits at the right hand of the Father.”

God the Word is also our Judge because He will come again in glory at the last judgement to judge the entire mankind.

Teachings about God the Holy Spirit

“8. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets.”



The **Holy Spirit** is the third Person of the Holy Trinity. The Savior Himself taught us that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father. The Son is begotten of the Father, and the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father. How this “proceeding” is achieved remains something beyond our understanding, same as it happens with the birth of the Son.

The Holy Spirit is also true God. He is entitled to the same honor and glory as the Father and the Son, of whom He is inseparable.

We name Him the “**Lord, the Giver of Life**” because He has filled with life everything that was made from the creation of the world. Thus we see that the Holy Spirit is working together with the Father and the Son to create the world. The Holy Spirit is the One who perfected all things made by the Father and the Son.

In the Holy Trinity each one of the three divine Persons has His own deed, to which the other two participate. Thus, if the Father is the Creator and the Son is the Savior, the **Holy Spirit is the Sanctifier** - the source of holiness.

The Holy Spirit is the One that “spoke through the prophets”, meaning that He has prepared the mankind for the coming of the Savior.

The **Holy Spirit** appears in the Holy Scripture in several forms:

- He descended in the form of a dove at the Baptism of the Lord.
- It was revealed in the form of a bright cloud on Mt. Tabor during the Transfiguration of Christ.
- He descended in the form of tongues of fire upon the Apostles on the day of the Pentecost.

Holy Spirit is the One that absolves the sins we confess to the priest, cleansing our soul.

Usually the **Holy Spirit** is mentioned after the **Father** and the **Son**, not because He would be smaller/less important than the Father and the Son, but because any work done by God in the world proceeds from the Father, is accomplished by the Son and is perfected by the Holy Spirit.