The Trinity
Class 7: *Filioque* ("and the Son")

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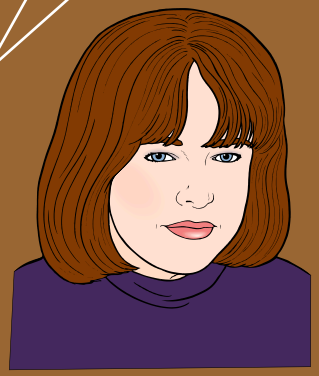


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What Is *Filioque*?

Please explain *filioque*. How does it affect me?



It is a controversy that split the church in 1054. And the split is not healed.



1

Come, thou Almighty King,
help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise:
Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

2

Come, thou Incarnate Word,
gird on thy mighty sword,
our pray'r attend.
Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy Word success,
and let thy righteousness
on us descend.

3

Come, Holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.

4

To the great One in Three
eternal praises be,
hence evermore.
His sov'reign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore.

A. Application

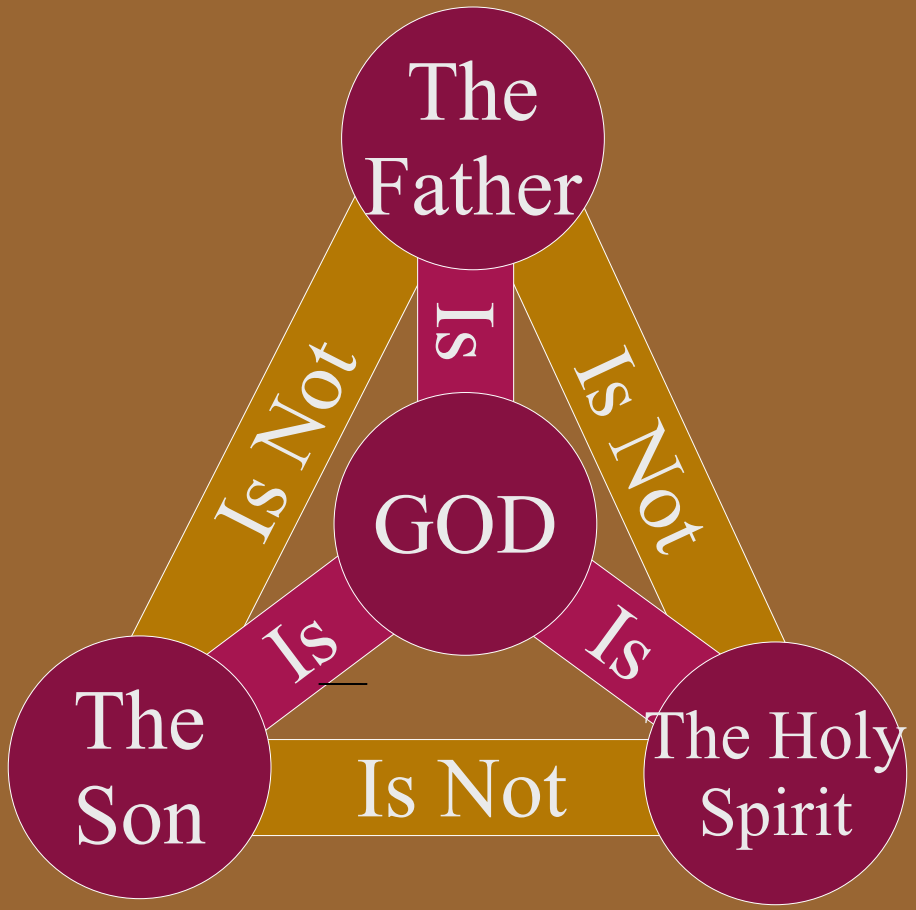
Child of God: Gal. 4:4-6

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

- Gal. 4:1-7; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5; John 1:12-13.

B. Basic Formulation

The Shield of the Trinity



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from 1210 onward

Activities in God

- The Son is Son, so begotten ("fathered")
- The Spirit is Spirit, like the breath of God, so spirated (breathed out)

The Spirit Proceeding

- What is the dynamics of the origin of the Holy Spirit?
- He proceeds from the Father
- Or, he proceeds from the Father and the Son
- *filioque* is Latin for "and the Son"
- Which??

The Nicene Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty …

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, ...

***And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son;

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; ...

The Nicene Creed: History

- The original Nicene Creed (325AD, 381AD) had only "who proceeds from the Father"
- Pope Benedict VIII approved adding "and the Son" (Latin *filioque*) to the official liturgy (1014)
- The Eastern Church ("Orthodox Church") never accepted this change
- Led to the "Great Schism" (1054)
- In Communion service at LPC, you sometimes recite the Nicene Creed
- Are you right?

Does It Matter?

- God is who he is
- God keeps on saving people
- "The main things are the plain things" (Alistair Begg)
- But–Differences in views of the Trinity propagate into differences in views about salvation

Child of God: Gal. 4:4-6

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

- Gal. 4:1-7; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5; John 1:12-13.

C. Biblical Support

Proceeding: John 15:26

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

from the Son

from the Father

Proceeding: John 15:26 (2)

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

future tense: Pentecost in history

present tense: eternally

Does History Reflect Eternity?

Yes!

God shows himself in history according to what he is really like

1. Analogy with Communication

Eternal and in Time: John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Analogy with Communication: Breath (Ezek. 37:5, 9, 14)

5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

14 And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live,

Eternal and in Time

Eternal

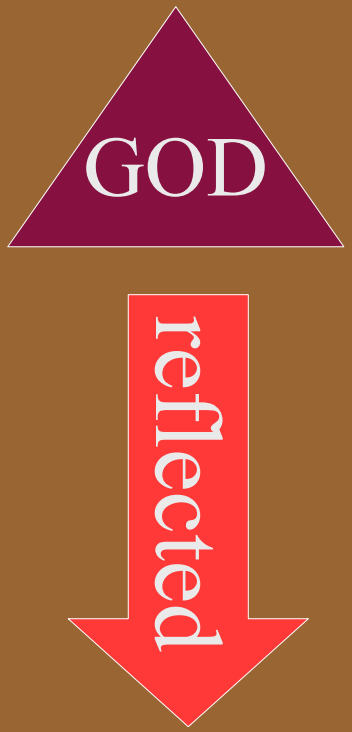
First Person	Second Person	Third Person
The Father	The Son	The Spirit
Speaker →	The Word →	Breath

In History

Speaker →	words →	breathed to us

Eternal and in Time (2)

Eternal



In History

Eternal and in Time (3)

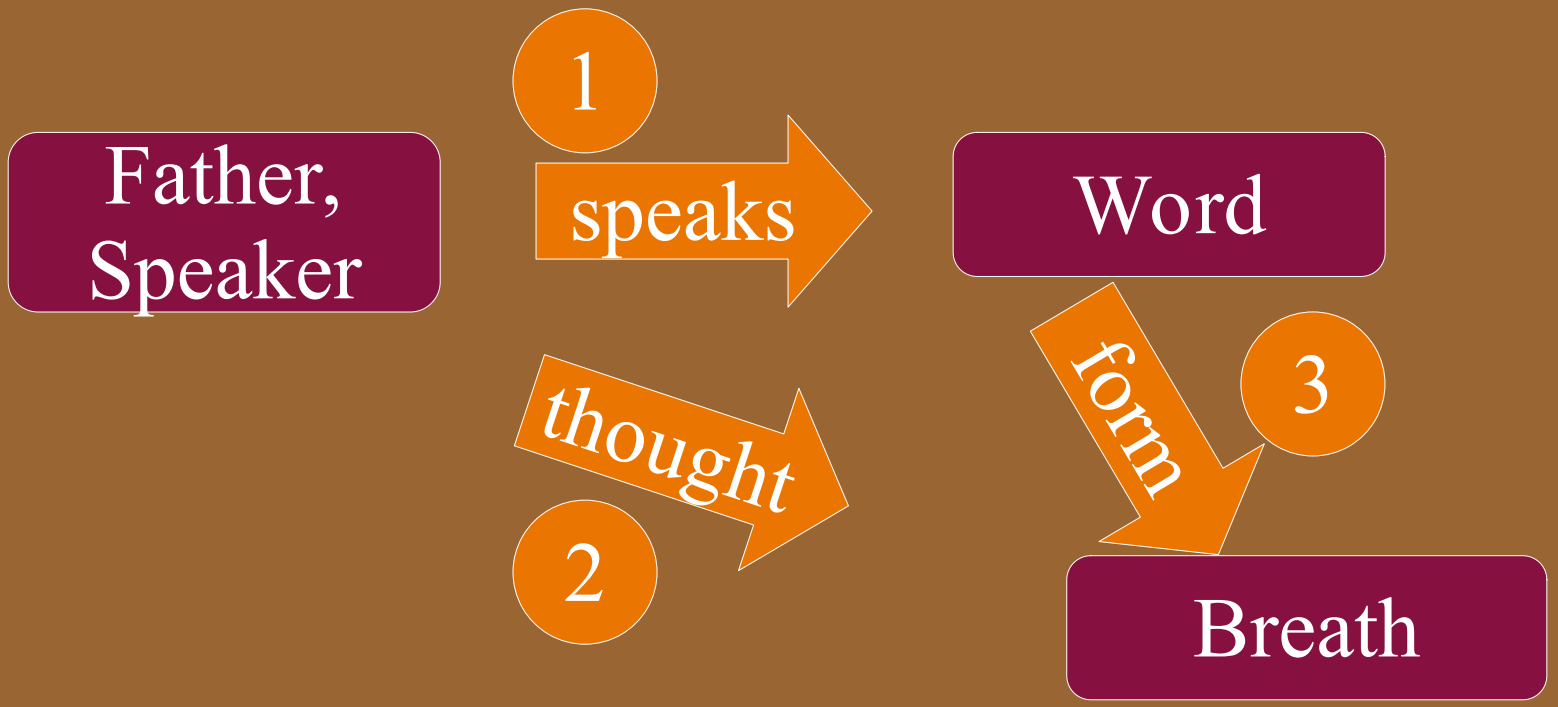
Eternal

Speaker → The Word → Breath

In History

Speaker → words → breathed to us

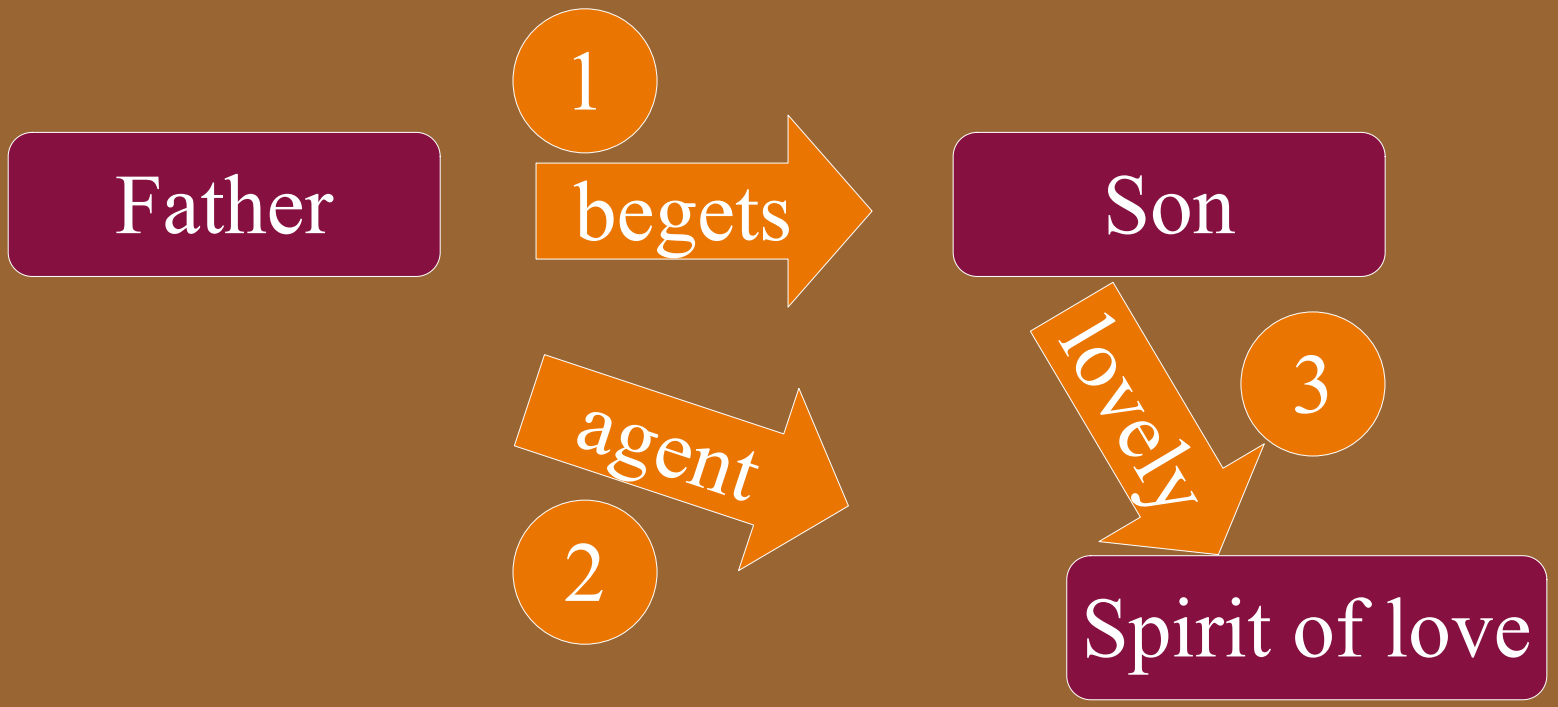
Order in Communication



2. Analogy with a Family: Love

For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. – John 3:34-35

Order in Love



Eternal and in Time: Family

Eternal



In History



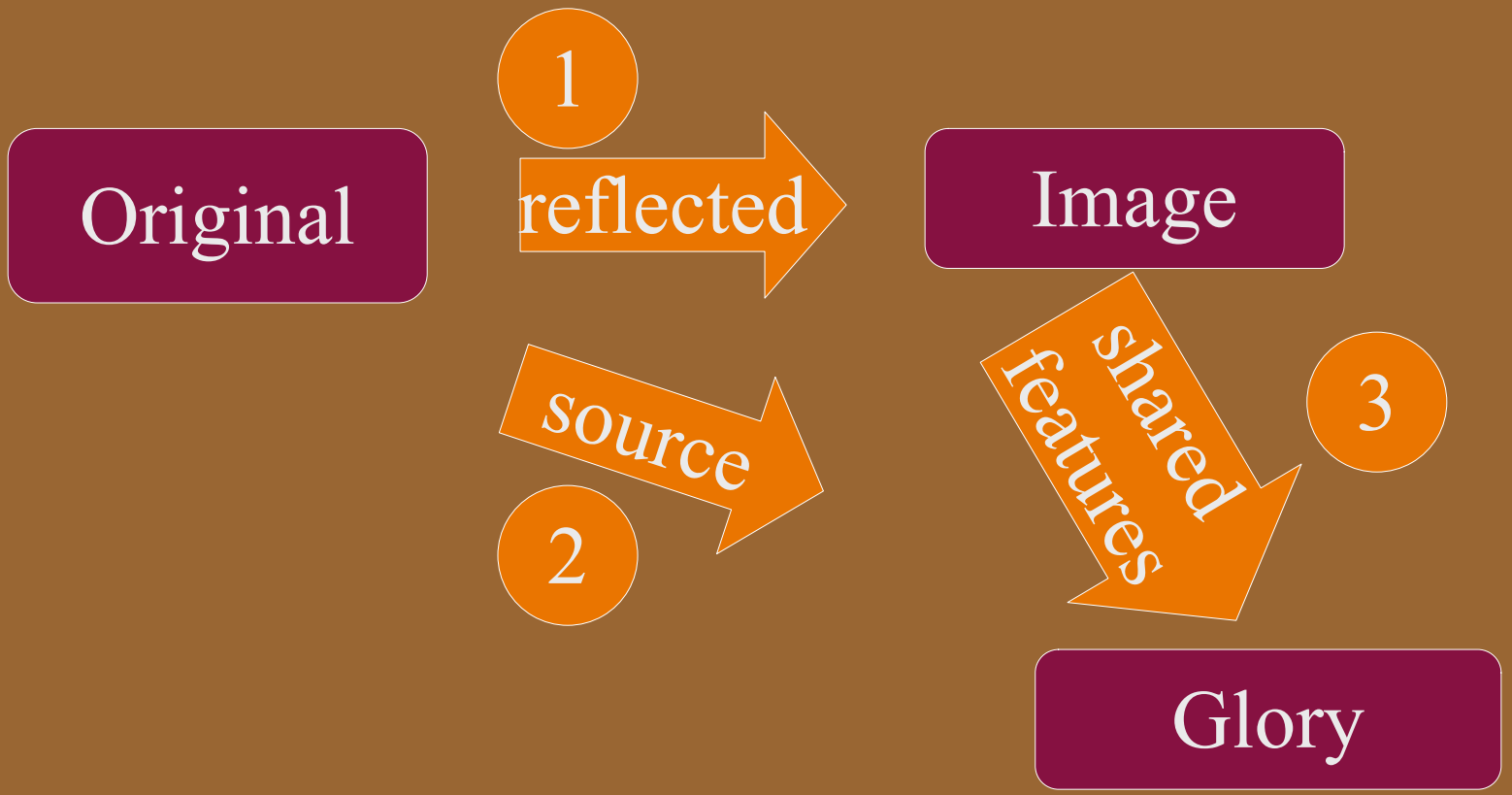
3. Analogy with Reflections: Glory (1 Pet. 4:14)

14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

Analogy with Reflections: Glory (Isa. 63:11-14)

11 Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.
Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is he who put in the midst of them
his Holy Spirit,
12 who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them

Order in Reflections



Perspectives on God

- God is always one God, three persons, who indwell each other, participating in processions.
- Since the persons are persons differentiated from each other in processions, the processions presuppose the persons and the persons the processions.
- Starting with persons starts with three persons and three relations (~East).
- Starting with activities starts with three activities of proceeding (~West).

Father and Son in Creating: 1 Cor. 8:6

for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Distinct Roles

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father through the Son ("from" vs. "through").

The Father spirates the Spirit *through* the Son.

The Father creates the world *through* the Son, in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Temptations: Knowledge

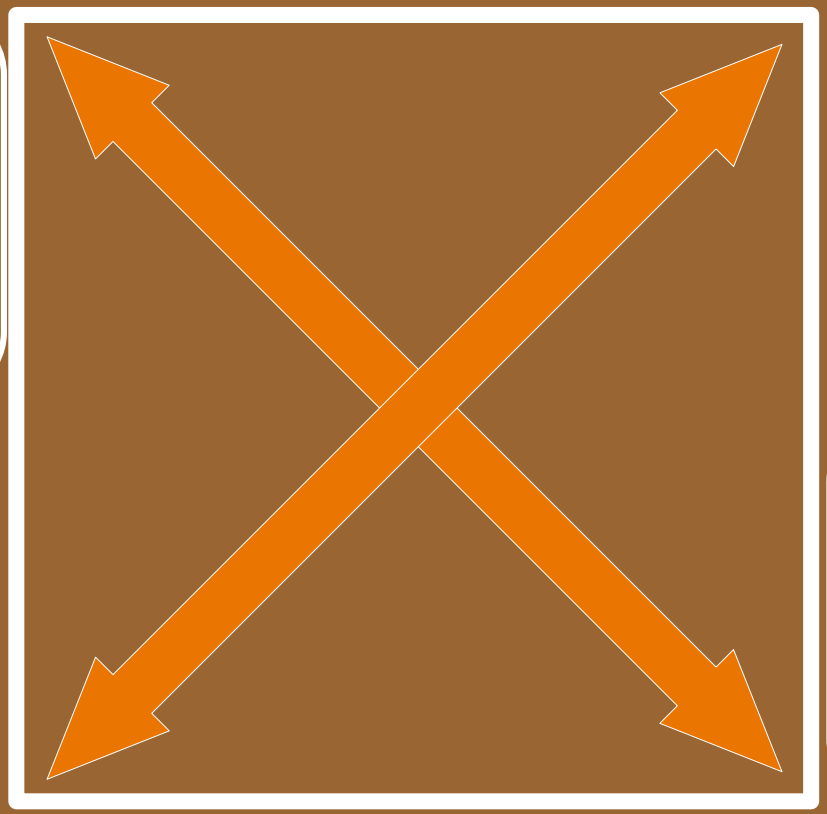
Christian

1

Transcend-ence: God is Trinity (incom-prehensible)

2

Immanence: God says he is Trinity



3

Non-Christian

Transcend-ence: God is unknowable

4

Immanence: human idea: Trinity makes no sense

Temptations: *Filioque*

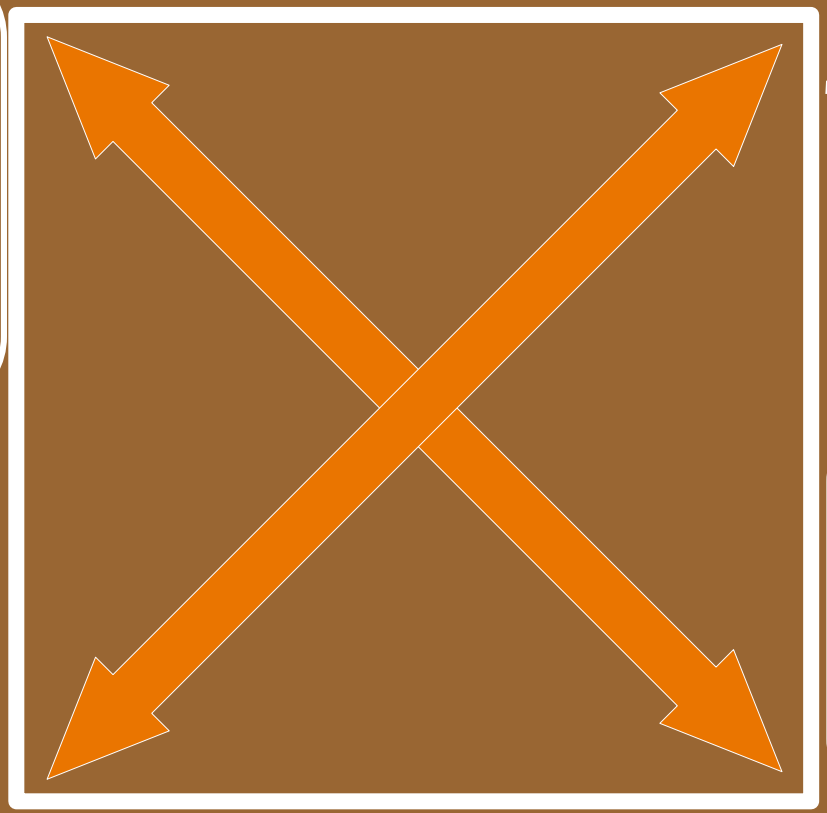
Christian

1

T: Processions are incom-prehensible (no human exactitude)

I: Missions reflect processions (yes to *filioque*.)

2



3

Non-Christian

T: Processions are meaningless

I: creeds are exact in meaning

4

Should You Confess *Filioque*?

- Distinguish theological truth and church confession of the truth
- *Filioque* is theologically true
- Church history shows sins
- The Pope and the West were pushy
- From the Reformation on, Protestants, Romanists, and Eastern cannot agree. So each tradition has developed its own confessions (such as Westminster Confession and Catechisms)
- Short answer: Yes!

Westminster Confession of Faith

2.3 In the unity of the Godhead there be three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost: the Father is of none, neither begotten, nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 10. What are the personal properties of the three persons in the Godhead?
A. It is proper to the Father to beget the Son, and to the Son to be begotten of the Father, and to the Holy Ghost to proceed from the Father and the Son from all eternity.

Should You Confess *Filioque*? (2)

- who proceeds from the Father (Eastern)
  - Yes!
- who proceeds from the Father and the Son (Western)
  - Yes!
- who proceeds from the Father through the Son (intermediate)
  - Yes!

Why? All three are true.
None says <u>everything</u>.

The Nicene Creed

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,

The Nicene Creed (2)

begotten, not made,
being of the same essence as the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate;

The Nicene Creed (3)

he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

The Nicene Creed (4)

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic church;

The Nicene Creed (5)

we acknowledge one baptism
for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

D. Applications

Child of God: Gal. 4:4-6

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

- Gal. 4:1-7; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5; John 1:12-13.

Hearing God: John 17:8

For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

- John 1:1; 15:26; 16:12-15; Heb. 1:1-2.

Hearing God: John 16:13-15

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

God Creates an Image (Gen. 1:26)

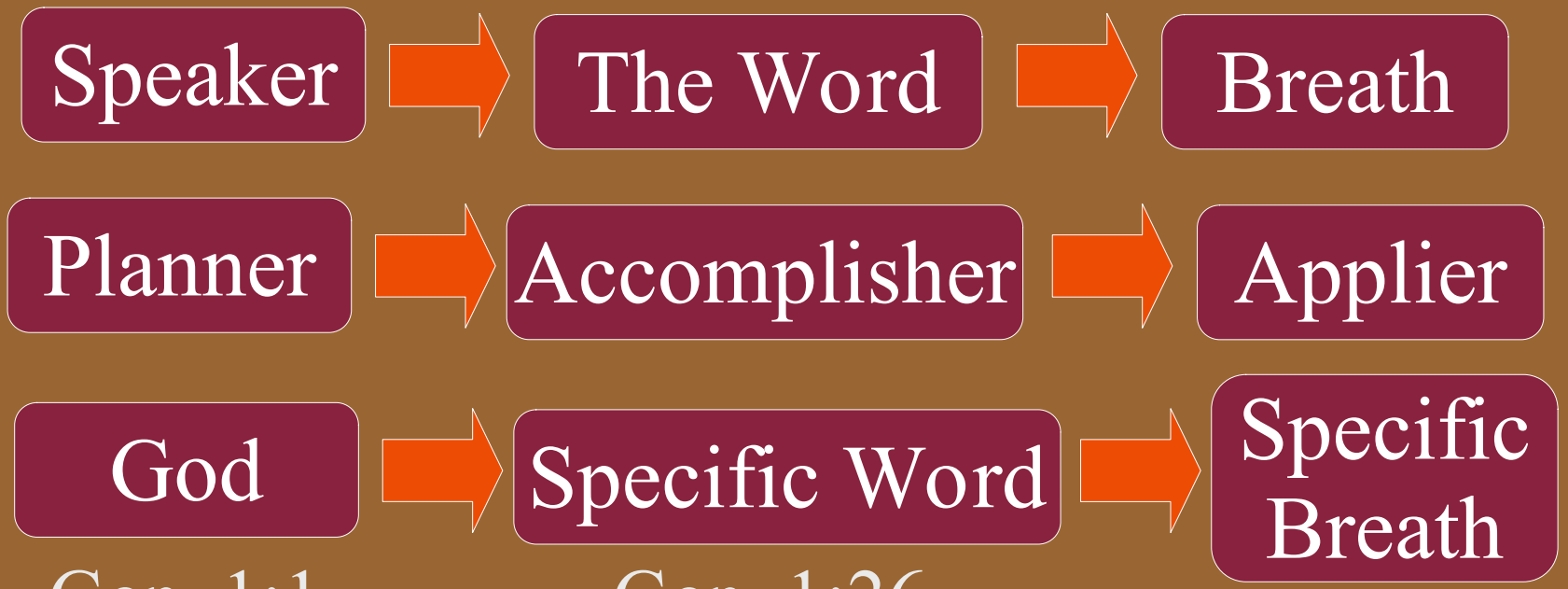


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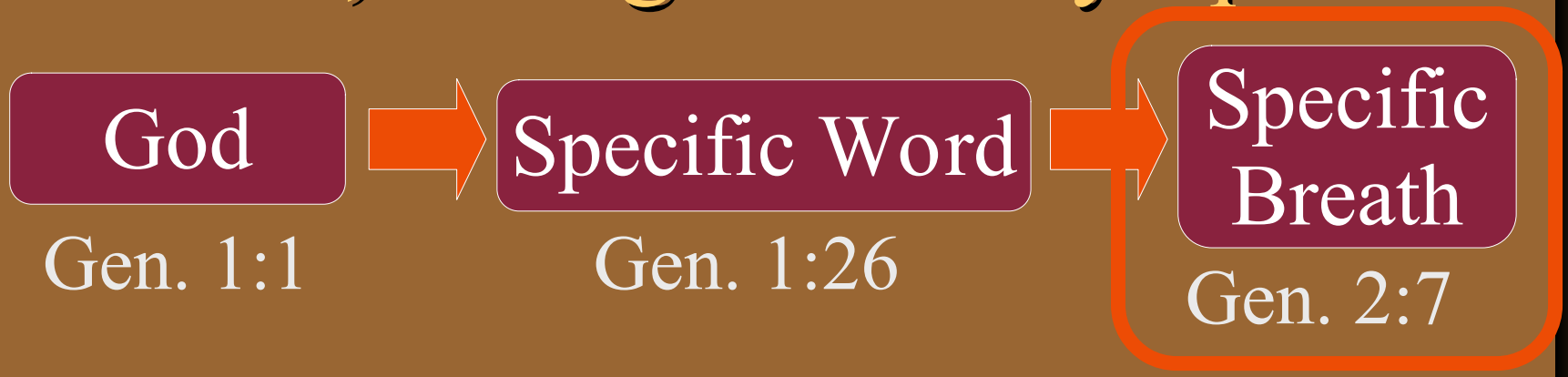
Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. ...”

Man, the Image of God

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. ..."



Man, through the Holy Spirit



then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
– Gen. 2:7

God Creates an Image (Gen. 1:26)



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- Every human being, made in the image of God, displays the impress of the processions

Reflecting God: 2 Cor. 3:17-18

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and
where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is
freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled
face, beholding the glory of the Lord,
are being transformed into the same
image from one degree of glory to
another. For this comes from the Lord
who is the Spirit.

- Rom. 8:29; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Lev. 19:2; Matt. 5:13-17.

New Life: Rom. 8:11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

- Rom. 6:3-11; Eph. 2:6; Col. 2:20; 3:1-4; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

New Life: Rom. 8:9-10

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Praying: Rom. 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

- Eph. 1:15-17; Heb. 7:23-25; 10:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.

You Pray: Rom. 8:34

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

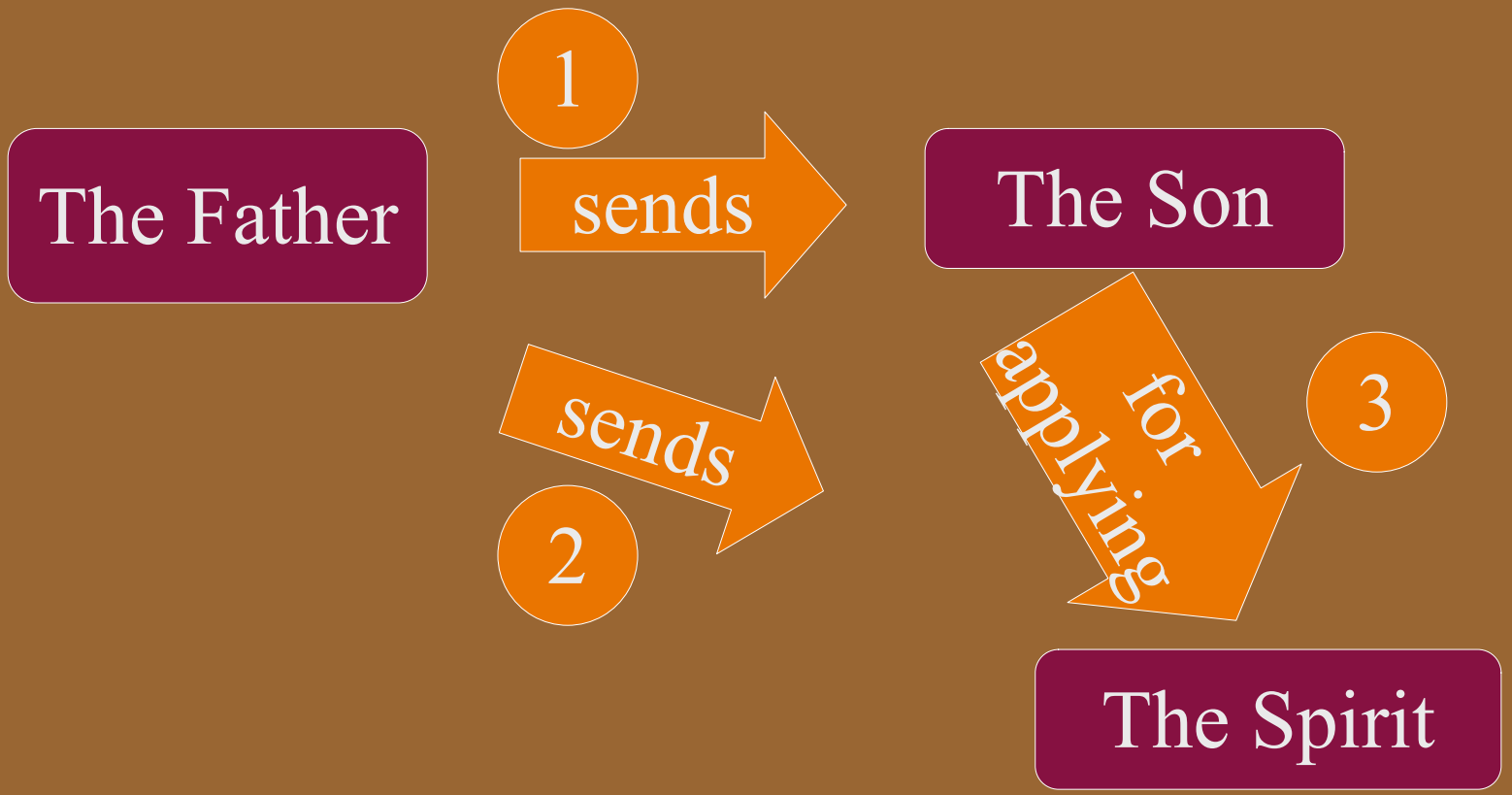
- Eph. 1:15-17; Heb. 7:23-25; 10:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.

Being Saved: Gal. 4:4

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

- Eph. 1:15-17; Heb. 7:23-25; 10:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.

Order Being Saved



The Holy Spirit Saving You

- The Father purposes to save
- The Spirit carries out the purpose of the Father
- The Son accomplishes salvation ("redeem")
- The Spirit brings the Son's accomplished work to us
- The Spirit unites us to Christ

Under Care: Eph. 1:22

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

- Eph. 1:20-23; Heb. 13:20-21; John 10:14-18.

Serving: Eph. 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- Eph. 4:10-13; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 3:10-13.

Sustaining: Heb. 1:3

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

- 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Eph. 1:20-23; Rev. 1:18.