

The Creeds Of Athanasius Sabellius And Swedenborg Examined And Compared With: A Journey Through Theological Perspectives

Embark on an intellectual odyssey that unravels the complexities of early Christian creeds through the comparative examination of the Creeds of Athanasius, Sabellius, and Swedenborg. This scholarly work delves into the intricacies of their theological frameworks, shedding light on their divergent views on the Trinity, the nature of God, and the person of Jesus Christ. By juxtaposing these creeds, we gain a deeper appreciation of the diverse interpretations that have shaped Christian thought throughout history.



The creeds of Athanasius, Sabellius, and Swedenborg, examined and compared with each other by Willem Floor

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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The Athanasian Creed: A Cornerstone of Orthodox Christianity

The Athanasian Creed

(QUICUNQUE VULT)

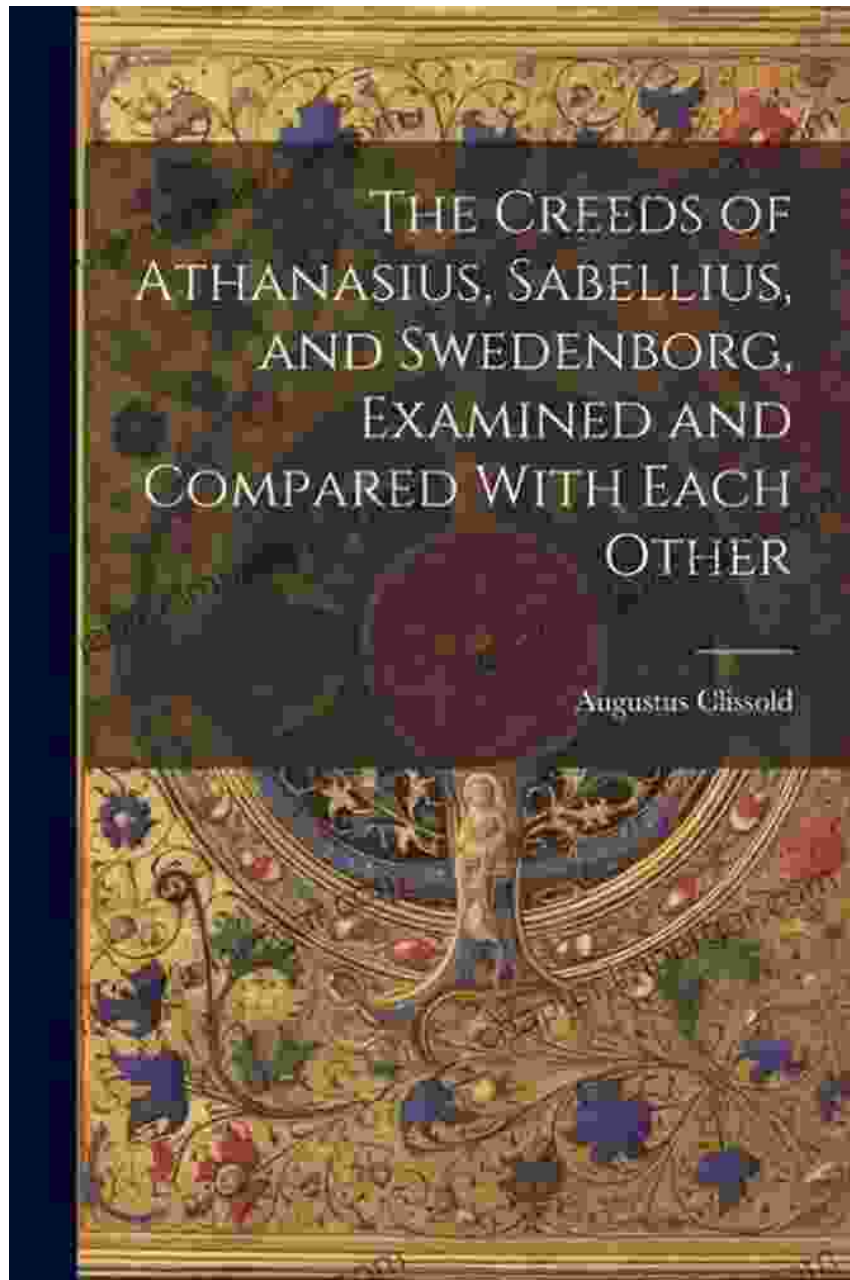
[Alternate readings in brackets]

1. Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic Faith.
2. Which Faith except everyone do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.
3. And the Catholic Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity,
4. Neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance [essence].
5. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost.
6. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one, the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal.
7. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost.
8. The Father uncreate [uncreated], the Son uncreate [uncreated], and the Holy Ghost uncreate [uncreated].
9. The Father incomprehensible [infinite], the Son incomprehensible [infinite], and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible [infinite].
10. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal.
11. And yet they are not three eternals, but one eternal.
12. As also there are not three incomprehensibles [infinite], nor three uncreated, but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible [infinite].
13. So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty, and the Holy Ghost Almighty.
14. And yet they are not three Almighties, but one Almighty.
15. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God.
16. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God.
17. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord.
18. And yet not three Lords, but one Lord.
19. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity: to acknowledge every Person by himself to be both God and Lord,
20. So are we forbidden by the Catholic Religion, to say, There be [are] three Gods, or three Lords.
21. The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten.
22. The Son is of the Father alone, not made, nor created, but begotten.
23. The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son, neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.
24. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts.
25. And in this Trinity none is afore, or after other; none is greater, or less than another [there is nothing before, or after; nothing greater or less];
26. But the whole three Persons are co-eternal together and co-equal.

The Athanasian Creed, attributed to the fourth-century theologian Athanasius of Alexandria, stands as a monumental declaration of orthodox Christian doctrine. It eloquently articulates the belief in the Holy Trinity, emphasizing the distinctness and equality of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit while maintaining their unity as one God. The creed asserts that

Jesus Christ is both fully human and fully divine, a pivotal concept in Christian theology.

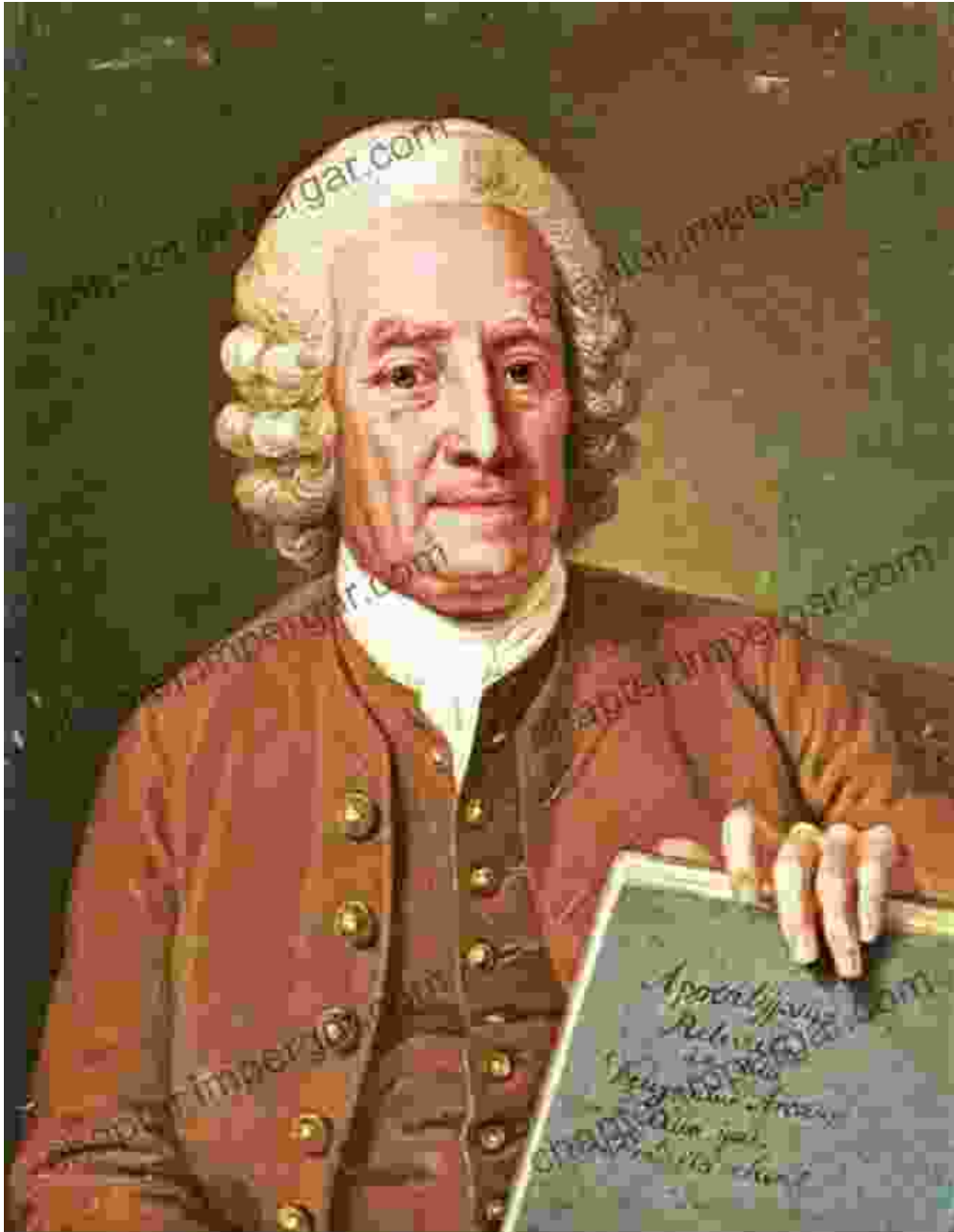
Sabellianism: A Nontrinitarian Interpretation



Sabellius, a third-century theologian whose views challenged the traditional understanding of the Trinity

Sabellianism, named after the Libyan theologian Sabellius, presents a contrasting perspective on the Trinity. Unlike the Athanasian Creed, which emphasizes the distinct persons of the Trinity, Sabellianism views God as a single entity that manifests in different modes or roles. This interpretation challenges the traditional understanding of the Trinity, asserting that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not separate beings but rather aspects of one divine substance.

Swedenborgianism: A Unique Vision of the Divine



Swedenborgianism, inspired by the teachings of the Swedish theologian Emanuel Swedenborg, offers a distinct perspective on the nature of God and the relationship between God and humankind. While sharing some similarities with Sabellianism, Swedenborgianism goes beyond the concept of modalism. It posits that God is not a trinity of distinct persons but rather a single divine being who manifests through three essential attributes: love,

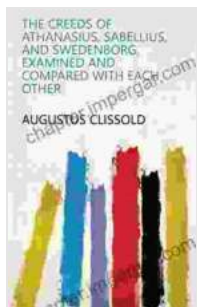
wisdom, and power. These attributes are not separate entities but rather aspects of God's unified nature.

Comparative Analysis: Exploring Divergent Interpretations

By examining these three creeds side-by-side, we discern the subtle nuances and profound differences in their theological perspectives. The Athanasian Creed upholds the traditional concept of the Trinity, emphasizing the distinct persons and unity of the Godhead. Sabellianism, on the other hand, offers a nontrinitarian interpretation, viewing God as a single entity with different manifestations. Swedenborgianism presents a unique synthesis, recognizing the unity of God while also acknowledging the presence of three essential attributes.

: Unveiling the Tapestry of Christian Thought

The comparative analysis of the Creeds of Athanasius Sabellius And Swedenborg provides a valuable lens through which to understand the diversity of theological interpretations that have shaped Christian thought. These creeds serve as historical landmarks, reflecting the ongoing quest for deeper understanding of the nature of God and our relationship with the divine. By exploring their differences and similarities, we gain a richer appreciation of the complexities of Christian theology and the enduring search for truth.



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