



the  
**HOLY** Spirit

# John 16

- <sup>12</sup> “I have many more things to say to you, but **you cannot bear *them* now.** <sup>13</sup> But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth;** for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

# DEBATE ON THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE EARLY CHURCH

## THE TRINITARIAN CONTROVERSY

- Apostolic church had a trinitarian view of God
- Monarchianism = God as Monarch, three modes of God, Son & Holy Spirit are creatures.
- Tertullian: Una substantia = one substance, Tres personae = three persons, Trinitas = trinity

# MORE CONTROVERSIES

- Divinity / Created
- Consubstantiality = same substance
- Gender
- Personhood
- Filioque = procession (led to the “great schism” between Orthodox and Roman Catholics 1054 AD)

# CONTROVERSIES

WAS TRINITY  
BORROWED  
FROM OTHER  
RELIGIONS?

PERSONHOOD  
OF THE HOLY  
SPIRIT

# CONTROVERSIES

## WAS TRINITY BORROWED FROM OTHER RELIGIONS?

- If this were true, then the entire Bible is borrowed!
- Jesus story – Greek God Dionysus
- Virgin birth – sun gods and harvest gods
- Lord's Supper – wine is symbol of blood; drank to worship Dionysus, ate bread to worship Osiris
- Noah Flood, creation story – similar ones in old religious epics
- Sunday worship – day of the sun
- Moral law – taken from other texts

## CONTROVERSIES

### WAS TRINITY BORROWED FROM OTHER RELIGIONS?

- Biblical concept of Trinity is entirely different from all other concepts.
- All others are either Tri-theistic or unitarian
- Tri-theistic – not separate from creation, pantheism, not transcendent
- Unitarian – only transcendent, can never have active interaction with creation, creation is purposeless
- Biblical Trinity – One God, three persons; both transcendent and imminent – Relational within God and relates with the world.