

the place of the human spirit in the body of Christ. This fourth-century heresy influenced many professing Christians for a long period of time.

Socianism arose in the sixteenth century. It held that Christ was a man who was baptized with the Holy Spirit (which was not a person, but the influence of God), lived an exemplary life, and was rewarded with a resurrection and an ascension to a kind of divinity, so that he is to be called God, prayed to, and worshipped. The view of Socianism has come^{down} to the present day, in a modified expression, in the form of Unitarianism.

D. The meaning of the unity of God

There are many Scriptures that stress the unity and uniqueness of God. Perhaps the one quoted most frequently is Deuteronomy 6:4 -- "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!" But there are other Scriptures that deserve mention, even in a brief treatment. I will simply quote them.

Isaiah 37:16 -- "O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, who art enthroned above the cherubim, Thou art the God, Thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. Thou hast made heaven and earth."

Isaiah 44:6 -- "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me."

John 17:3 -- "And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God . . ."

I Corinthians 8:4-6 -- ". . . we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; . . ."

Ephesians 4:6 -- "one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all."

James 2:19 -- "You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder."

Both the Scriptures that speak of God's unity and those that speak of His uniqueness send the same message: God is one, and there is only one true and living God. There are not two or three Gods or many Gods; there is one God. God is one!