

Book II: 4:1

(2) Tertullian: Against Praxeas ch. II
ch. VIII

(3) Hippolytus: Refutation of All Heresies
Books IX:5.

(4) Gregory Thaumaturgus: On the Trinity

c. Observations:

(1) The theological details are not worked out and the concepts of the inner workings of the Trinity are not well-discussed but the primary belief of the fathers in these areas is well seen. It will take time, disputes, and many heretics to get the other things in good order.

Theology
Proper:

Observations

(2) The clear-cut attempt at distinctions as made with the heretical and pagan authors are much in evidence. Naturally some language will be similar to all parties and an orthodox expression could sound similar to a gnostic phrase because, as we say it, "light is light", etc. But the fathers generally are clearly removed from the views they oppose.

2. Anthropology...the doctrine of Man. It is not the area of most attention in the Ante-Nicene period but it comes into clearer perspective in following ages after the initial thrust in this time. The foundation is in this age as may be noted by this quote from Cunningham: Historical Theology, Vol. 1, p. 321:

Anthropology:

There never, indeed, has been much appearance of true personal religion where the divinity of the Son of God has been denied; but there has often been a profession of sound doctrine upon this subject, long maintained, where there has been little real religion. Whereas, not only has there never been much real religion where there was not a substantially sound doctrine in regard to the points involved in the Pelagian controversy, but also--and this is the point of contrast--the decay of true religion has always been accompanied by a large measure of error in doctrine upon these subjects: the action and reaction of the two upon each other being speedy and manifest.

In other words, the doctrine of the Son, while tantamount to orthodoxy, has less immediate effect on the conduct and direction of religious practice than has the doctrine of man. In the long run it is of far greater significance but in the immediate, the latter is superior.