

Just Thinking Apologetics

Continuing with some of the early heretical beliefs of the nature of Jesus we next come to **Arianism**. Arius lived in Alexandria between the years of 256-336. Arius argued that Jesus was like (*homoiousios*) God the Father, but not of the same (*homoousios*) nature as God the Father. This heresy saw Jesus as the first and greatest of God's creation, but He was not of the same nature as God the Father, or He was not divine. This counters the passage where Jesus said, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. (John 14:9)" The early Church father Athanasius debated Arius and eventually this heresy was condemned at the Council of Nicaea (AD 325).

Apollinarianism is another heresy named after an ex-Bishop (Apollinarius). He taught that Jesus was fully divine, but not fully human. This heresy was condemned at the Council of Constantinople in AD 381. **Nestorianism** is another heresy associated with an individual (Nestorius) who passed away in the 5th century. Nestorianism taught and believed in both the humanity and divinity of Jesus, but said the two natures made up two persons. This counters the orthodox view of the Bible that Jesus is one person composed of two natures. The one person is Jesus, who is 100% God and 100% man. This is why Jesus, who is divine, can also identify with all of humanity, because he is 100% man, as well. This heresy was condemned in AD 431 at the Council of Ephesus.