

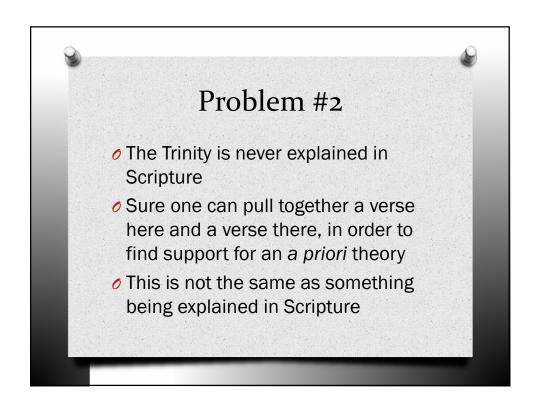
# Deuteronomy 4.35, 39

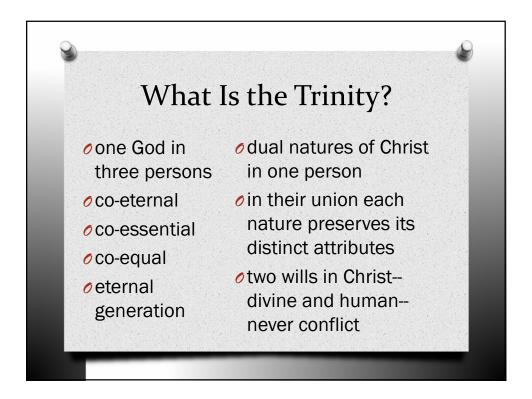
- o 35 To you it was shown so that you
  would acknowledge that the LORD
  is God; there is no other besides
  him.
- 39 So acknowledge today and take to heart that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

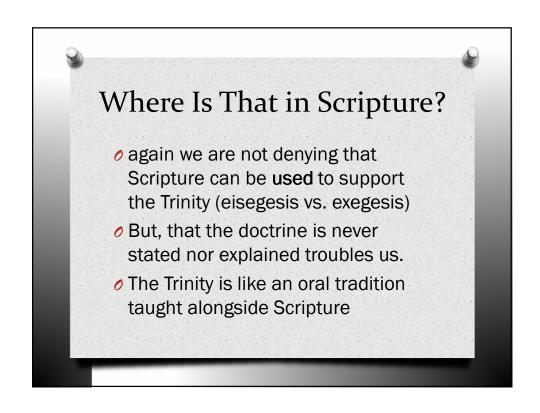
# Mark 12.28-34

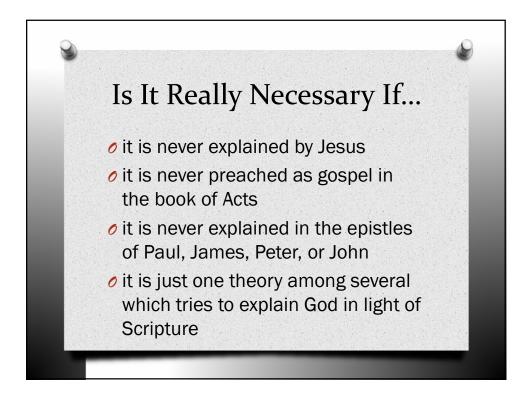
- Jesus confessed the Shema, the core creed of Judaism, without altering it at all
- How would the Jewish scribe have heard this? As a Trinitarian creed?
- The scribe summarized the Shema with the words "he is one, and besides him there is no other"

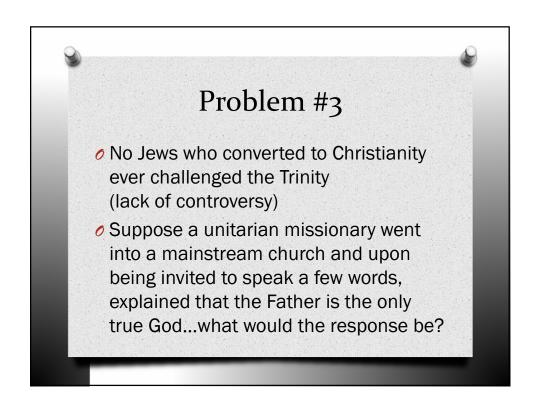
# Mark 12.28-34 Jesus did not alter or criticize this unitarian reading of the Shema, rather he highly praised the scribe saying "you are not far from the kingdom of God" But, if the Jesus was also God, as a second member, wouldn't he be guilty of misleading this scribe?









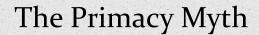


### Controversies in the NT

- Corinth is full of controversies, from factions to speaking in tongues to impropriety at communion, etc.
- general controversy over whether Gentiles could be accepted into Christianity
- controversy over whether justification came through the works of the law or by faith

# Three Options

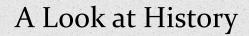
- 1. The Trinity did not exist yet
- 2. It existed but wasn't taught (i.e. it was not that important)
- 3. It was taught but it caused no controversy whatsoever among monotheistic Jewish communities (conspiracy theory)



- O The Trinity was believed by the earliest Christians from the beginning but they didn't write about it until the "heretics" began articulating alternate theologies of God and Christ
- But, what evidence is there that the earliest Christians believed it?
- o To assume it at the outset is circular

# A Look at History

- 1. [325] Nicea I: Is the Son eternal?
- 2. [381] Constantinople I: Is the Holy Spirit the third person?
- 3. [431] Ephesus: Was Mary the bearer of Christ's divine nature (theotokos)?
- 4. [451] Chalcedon: Did Christ have one or two natures? How?



- 5. [553] Constantinople II: How can we interpret the dual natures without dividing Christ into two
- 6. [681] Constantinople III: Did Christ have one or two wills?
- 7. [787] Nicea II: Can icons of Christ be worshiped? How?

## The Conundrum

- So if the myth of Trinitarian primacy is true—that it always existed and was understand and taught since the time of the apostles—then why was there four and half centuries of controversies?
- Why does this historical record look like the Trinity slowly evolved?

