

you tend to go in one direction of the other where you make a statement that contradicts some element of clear truth. We have noticed how that in the centuries before Constantine's time, people tried to explain these things and got into heretical ideas. We have noticed the Rise of Monarchianism and Patrioticism - there is just one God. God the Father is the one God and he shows himself as God the father clearly manifests himself as God the Son and manifests himself as the Holy Spirit but there are just different ways he chooses to manifest himself. He may choose to do it in a hundred other ways. There is just one God. Well that is Sabellianism and that the church rejected as not a Christian idea. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is in some way a distinct person from all eternity and that the original distinction in the Godhead is between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, but that there is one God. Now as I say, we can't understand it but we find it is the Bible teaching, it is what Christians always have believed. We find it is the Bible fact. People have tried to explain it and have gone in this direction of Sabellianism and then you find they don't have a man there at all, just a God manifesting himself in what looks like a man but it isn't a man. There just isn't any humanity there. No distinction in the Godhead. Then you find the other attitude that there is God and there is man, Christ. Then the man is entered into by God and gradually he comes to be controlled by God but he is a man, he is not God. Then you have these two extremes and you have them as much as 150 years before Constantine's beginning and as much as 120 years before you have very strong controversy in Rome. You have these difficulties and in the Western Church the attitude seems to have been more practical. Here is the Bible, here are these facts, we don't fully understand them but here they are - let's take them, let's believe them, let's appropriate them, let's present them. While, in the East you have more on the speculative attitude that tries to work up precise details to understand exactly how it is and you have man after man going too far this way or too far that way. So, in this century you have this matter of this question about the real deity of Jesus Christ. This question coming to the fore and becoming a matter which agitated the whole Christian Church and in fact the whole world.