

Believing Thomas
(John 20:19-31)

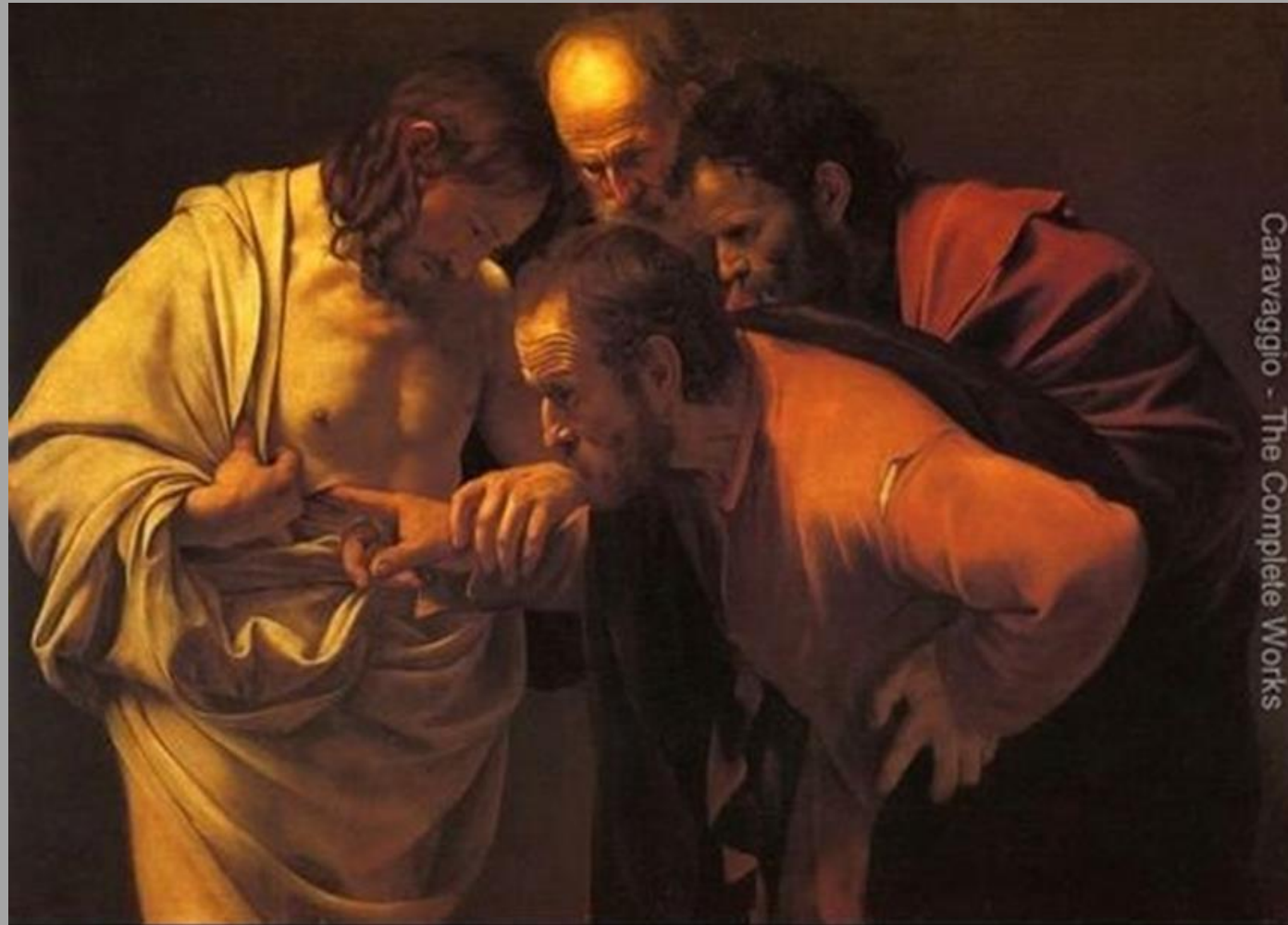


Believing Thomas **(John 20:19-31)**

“People Say Stuff”



“People Say Stuff”



New City Catechism

Question #3:

How many persons are there in God?

There are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Supporting verse:

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all”

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

The Nicene Creed

- The Nicene Creed, also called the **Nicaeno-Constantinopolitan Creed**, is a statement of the orthodox faith of the early Christian church in opposition to certain heresies, especially Arianism. These heresies, which disturbed the church during the fourth century, concerned the doctrine of the trinity and of the person of Christ.

Arius and Arianism

- **Arius** (c. 225 A.D.?-336 A.D.) Priest in Alexandria, Egypt
- Arianism affirmed a created, finite nature of Christ rather than equal divinity with God the Father

The Nicene Creed

(The Nicaeno-Constantinopolitan Creed)

- **Council of Nicaea** (May-August 325 A.D.): Called by Roman Emperor Constantine I to resolve differences regarding the divinity of Jesus
- **Council of Constantinople** (May-July 381 A.D.): Called by Roman Emperor Theodosius I to resolve differences regarding the divinity of the Holy Spirit

The Nicene Creed: The Nature of God the Father

- **No controversy: a belief in monotheism**
- “We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.”
- **The Shema:**
⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

The Nicene Creed:

The Nature of Jesus the Son of God

- Controversy: How can one believe both in monotheism and that Jesus is also God?
(Orthodoxy: Three persons in one God)
- “And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father **before all ages,**
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same **ESSENCE** as the Father.”

New City Catechism

Question #3:

How many persons are there in God?

There are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are **the same in substance**, equal in power and glory.

Is Jesus (the Son of God) of “One” or of “Similar” Substance with God the Father?

- The Nicean Creed states that the Son is *homoousion to Patri* (“of **one** substance with the Father”)
- Arianism asserted that the Son is asserted is “of **similar** substance” (*homoiousios*) with the Father

“Begotten” not “Made”

- *Monogenes*: (Greek) “only begotten”
- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son [or “*unique One*”] from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1, 14 ESV)
- The sonship in the Gospel of John expresses Christ’s eternal existence, the same as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit
- “The adjective ‘only begotten’ conveys the idea . . . of uniqueness and **consubstantiality**: Jesus is all that God is, and He alone is this” (B.B. Warfield, *Biblical Doctrines*).

What does this have to do with Thomas?

- Similar to Arianism, before his epiphany Thomas first held a dependence on empiricism and understanding strictly through logic to understand the nature of Jesus—and by extension the nature of God--rather than a dependence upon grace and faith for an understanding of Jesus as God.

Thomas' Wrong Assumption

“Seeing is Believing”

John 20:27b

“Do not disbelieve, but believe.”

--Jesus

Credo ut Intelligam

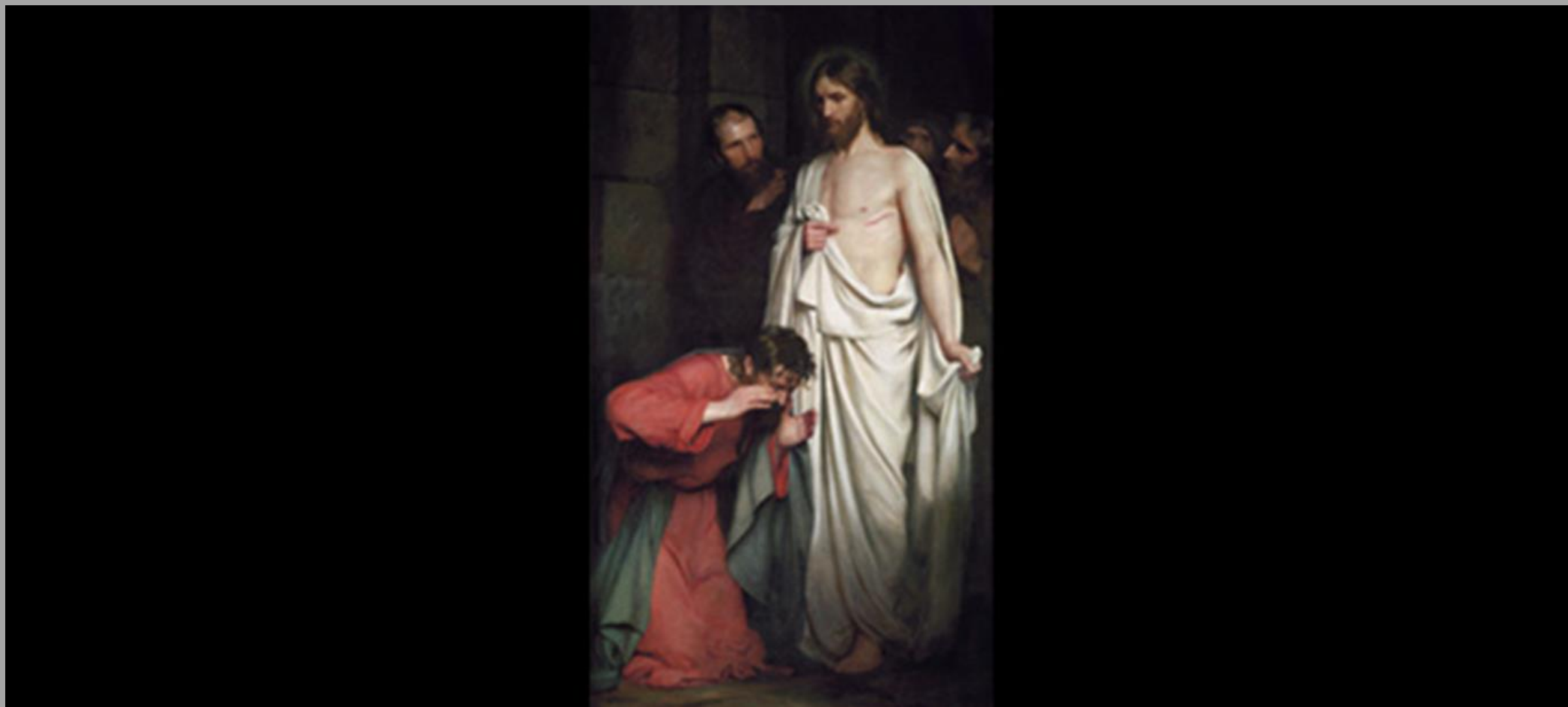
“I Believe, so that I might understand”

--Anselm of Canterbury

Thomas Sees with New Eyes

- After his epiphany, Thomas understood and boldly declared that Jesus is in fact God:
- ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”
- Jesus did not rebuke Thomas for worshipping Him

A Spiritual Awakening



A Spiritual Awakening: The Role of the Holy Spirit

“The sense of the Excellency of Christ by reason of that holiness and grace, is nevertheless immediately the work of the Holy Spirit.”

--Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

A Spiritual Awakening: The Role of the Holy Spirit

²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22)

What does this have to do with us?

- ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Takeaways

- A. The Gospel is a stumbling block in an Age of Science
- B. One “dogma” in Christianity is that JESUS IS GOD!
(Dogma, Doctrines, Preferences)
- C. Do you believe that Jesus is God?

Let Us Pray

