



MODALISM

Modalism

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Error in Trinitarian Doctrine

- * “Monarchian Modalism”: So emphasizes God’s unity that the Persons lose their distinct qualities; “Teddy Roosevelt” theory of the Trinity
- * “Dynamic Modalism”: *Power* (δυναμις) of God the Father was at work in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit; “roman candle” theory of Trinity
- * Memorable Monarchians: Noetus, Sabellius, Pope Callistus; noteworthy Dynamic Modalists included Theodotus the Cobbler, Theodotus the Banker, Paul of Samosata

[Theodotus]. . . held that the spirit of God (= Christ) dwelt in the human Jesus as an inspiring power. . . . A short time later, Noëtus of Smyrna appeared in Rome with the “Monarchian” doctrine that God himself had become flesh, had walked on earth in the figure of Jesus Christ, had been martyred, and had died: the Invisible had become visible, the Unbegotten had been born, the Immortal had been put to death.

Hans Lietzmann, *The Founding of the Church Universal*, 190