

1 week one

apologist

Athanasius

293 - 373

Jesus became what we are that he might make us what he is.

The contemporary church is fairly ignorant of the great voices of the faith that have paved the way for us today. For instance, Athanasius. Do you know who he is? What he did? Why he mattered?

Athanasius shook the foundations of the Roman world, and his writings defined the church's theology on some key doctrines. He was exiled five times by the Roman emperors for his dogmatic insistence that Jesus is God. He spent 17 of the 45 years he served as bishop of Alexandria in northern Germany labeled a heretic. But God redeemed those days by allowing Athanasius to write a defense of the orthodox Christian faith, especially as it related to the trinity. His most famous work was *On the Incarnation* which was a rebuttal of Arianism—a false teaching that denied the deity of Jesus. Even today his writings offer a solid response to those who deny the trinity.

REFLECTION

We are indebted to Athanasius' perseverance. May he serve as an example for the church today in the need to not let public opinion shape our theology but to be guided by God's word. Would you be willing to be exiled for your faith in Christ?