

Questions About God the Father and Jesus

In the picture of the Father and the Son...they are separated from each other. Is it error or heresy for me to believe that a more accurate depiction would be the Lord inside the Father...One!? That question concerns the pre-incarnate relationship between the Father and Son.

Answer:

That's a profound and reverent question — and one that touches on the mystery at the very heart of the Godhead. Let's explore this carefully through Scripture and sound theology.

1. The Bible reveals both unity and distinction.

Scripture presents a divine *paradox*: the Father and the Son are **distinct Persons**, yet they share **one essence**.

- **Unity:**

“I and My Father are one.” — *John 10:30*

“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me.” — *John 14:11*

These verses affirm that the Son is *in* the Father and the Father *in* the Son — not in a physical sense, but in perfect oneness of essence, will, love, and glory.

- **Distinction:**

“The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.” — *1 John 4:14*

“The Word was with God, and the Word was God.” — *John 1:1*

“With God” shows distinction; “was God” shows unity.

So, in the pre-incarnate state, the Son was not *separate* from the Father like two different beings, nor was He *merged* into the Father as if indistinguishable — they were, and are, **one in nature yet distinct in personhood**.

2. The concept of “the Lord inside the Father” reflects deep truth — but must be expressed carefully.

To say that “the Lord is inside the Father” is *not heresy* if by that you mean that the Son eternally shares the Father’s divine essence — the same life, glory, and Spirit. That’s fully biblical:

“The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.” — *John 5:19*

However, if someone means that the Father and Son are not distinct persons — that they are merely two “modes” or “faces” of the same being — that view drifts into **Modalism (Sabellianism)**, which the early church rightly rejected because it denies their eternal relationship.

3. The pre-incarnate relationship was one of eternal mutual indwelling (Greek: *perichōrēsis*).

The early Christian thinkers used the word *perichōrēsis*, meaning “*mutual indwelling*” or “*interpenetration without confusion*.”

This beautifully captures what Jesus said:

“I am in the Father, and the Father in Me.” — *John 14:10*

So your instinct is theologically sound: before the incarnation, the Son eternally dwelt “in” the Father, sharing His glory and essence (John 17:5).

He was not a creature beside God, but **God of God, Light of Light**, eternally co-existent, co-equal, and co-glorious.

4. Summary

Truth	Description
Unity	The Father and Son share one divine essence — “I and the Father are one.” (John 10:30)
Distinction	They are distinct persons — “The Word was with God.” (John 1:1)
Indwelling	They exist in eternal fellowship and mutual indwelling — “I am in the

	Father and the Father in Me.” (John 14:10)
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So no, it's not error or heresy to believe that the Son was “in the Father” — as long as that belief honors both their **oneness of essence** and **distinction of persons**. It's actually one of the most beautiful truths Jesus revealed about His eternal relationship with the Father.

**For More Questions, please contact Pastor Ed Anderson at
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