

But Apollonarius found he was strongly combatting the Arian views and he found the problem that the orthodox people said that Christ, the second person of the trinity, became man. The Arians said he put on flesh, took on himself human flesh which denies the whole humanity of Christ. Now this started a so called ~~the~~ crystal-logical controversy regarding the real person of Jesus Christ as a man. The Nicene controversy is about Jesus Christ, the 2nd person of the trinity, if he was really God. Of course the Arians deny that he was man because they say he took on human flesh. Now the Nicene believers said he is really a man as well as fully God. But just how can this be? How can he be fully man and at the same time be fully God. Well Apollonarius thought on that. He said in Thessalonians, Paul said - your whole body and spirit be preserved blameless. Now he said, there is a human body, there is a human soul but instead of having a human spirit which would be sinful, the 2nd person of the trinity is the spirit which is united with a human body and soul to make the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you see the point? The 2nd person of the trinity is a spirit, he is God himself, and this spirit unites with a human body and a human soul and takes the place of the human spirit; so that you have a divine spirit, human body and human soul and that is Jesus Christ. That is Apollonarius view. Now this view Apollonarius thought, would remove the difficulties of the Arians. How could you have real God and real man really united? He said there is a human soul and body but divine spirit so ~~which~~ while he is a real man, he has a divine spirit which is not sinful. God takes the place of the human spirit. Well Athanasias said this does not make Jesus a real man. He would be kind of a hybrid, neither God nor man. This certainly destroyed his humanity. Athanasias said that Apollonarius is such a staunch believer in the Nicene creed and such a staunch Christian, I don't want to attack him personally in any way but his view is dangerous and destructive. So, he said, I must warn people against this view. So Athanasias, trying to keep from using Apollonarius name, described the view in his writings so clearly that people couldn't help knowing whose view it was, then proceeded to warn people against it.