

Joseph Smith and the Trinity: An Analysis and Defense of the *Social Model of the Godhead*

Abstract

The theology of Joseph Smith remains controversial and at times divisive in the broader Christian community. This paper begins with a comparison between Joseph's model of the Godhead and current forms of re-emergent Social Trinitarianism (ST). Specifically, I argue that Joseph's understanding of the Godhead is an instance of ST. Secondly, I examine two currently debated issues in ST and argue that Joseph's distinctive theology comes to bear on each in insightful ways. Finally, as a proponent of ST I offer a defense of the model against some of the attacks made against it by Brian Leftow.