

Deviation from revealed truth

(Part II of III)

Here is a continuation of some of the more obvious **heresies** that the church has had to confront through its 2,000 year history.

Partialism professed that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were components of the one God and that when they came together they were fully God.

Marcionism stated that there were two Gods. The god of evil is lesser than the god of good. The god of evil was the source of creation and sin. The good god was the source of salvation. He came among us appearing as a man and saved the world from the god of evil. This dualism would appear later in Manicheism and still later in Albigensism.

Adoptionism: Jesus is not divine by nature of being the God man. He did not preexist as the son of God equal to the Father and Holy Spirit. He was born like every other man, was tested by God, was given great powers after his baptism and later adopted by God as his son.

Arianism: Only God the Father is fully God. He created Jesus and adopted him as his son. Thus, Jesus is not of the same nature as the Father. He is lesser than the Father. Even so, Jesus is the source of all creation.

Ebionitism stated that while Jesus was endowed with particular charismatic gifts, which distinguished him from other humans, he was still just a human being and not divine.

Monarchianism – There is only one God who is one person, Father. Jesus is just a man and the Holy Spirit is a force or power of God. Modern day adherents of this would be Jehovah's Witnesses, Christadelphians and Unitarians.

Modalism – This is modification of Monarchiaism in so far as God is one person in three modes or forms. This reflects the beliefs of the United Pentecostal and United Apostolic Churches.

Docetism: This teaches that Jesus was divine, but only appeared to be human and thus God did not suffer on the cross.

Cerinthianism held that the man Jesus, son of Joseph and Mary, was preeminent in righteousness and wisdom, that “the Christ” came on him at his baptism and empowered his ministry, but left him before his crucifixion; it was only a man who died and rose again. This view, like Docetism, eliminated the Incarnation and nullified Christ’s atoning work.

Nestorianism - Jesus was two distinct persons: the Son of God and the man Jesus. As such Mary was not the mother of God but only the mother of the Christ.

Monophysitism - Jesus had only one nature: divine. His human nature was absorbed into the divine.

Monothelitism: Jesus had two natures but only one will.

Subordinationism - The Son is lesser than the Father in essence and or attributes.

Apollinarianism – Jesus’ divine will overshadowed and replaced the human. It taught that although our Lord had a real human body it was his divinity in him that took the place of the soul.