

A WARNING TO BELIEVERS

(Let no one deceive you...)

I. Two Kinds of people – The Foundation

- A. Gen. 3:15 – The seed of the woman/the seed of the serpent.
- B. John 8:37-47- Those who hear God’s word and those who don’t.
- C. John 10:3-5- Christ’s sheep and stranger voices.
- D. John 10:25-27- Those who follow His voice and those who don’t follow the voice of strangers and those who do.
- E. John 18:37, Rom. 1:25 – Those who are of the Truth (and the people of the Lie).
- F. Prov. 4:19 - Darkness and stumbling.

II. A Warning to God’s People – Take Heed!

- A. Matt. 24:4-5,11,23-26 -Take heed! Deceivers, false Christs, false prophets
- B. Mark 13: 5-6, 21-23 – Take heed!
- C. Luke 21:8 –Take heed!
- D. 1John 4:1-6 - Test the spirits...
- E. 2 Cor. 11:13-15 – False apostles... angel of light
- F. Eph. 5:6-14 – Let no one deceive you...

III. The Great Apostasy – The falling away

- A. 2Thess. 2:1-12 - The Truth and The Lie.

- B. 1Tim.4:1
- C. 2Pet. 2:1-2

IV. Examples through Church History – A Broad Overview

A. Ancient

- Gnosticism Docetism Arianism, Marcionism, Ebionism, Manichaeism, Modalism, Monarchianism, Appollinariaism, Nestorianism, Eutychianism, Monophysism, Monothelitism, Pelagianism

B. Medieval

- Romanism

C. Modern

- Arminianism
- “Christian cults”
 - Mormonism
 - Jehovah Witnesses
 - SDA
 - Christian Science
- Darwinian Evolutionism

D. Postmodern

- New Age spirituality (we’ll examine more closely next week!).
- “Word of Faith” movement. (syncretistic blend of Christianity, Christian Science and the New Age thinking). Crouch, Copeland, Hagin, Hinn, Tilton, Osteen, White, Meyer, Cho, Schuller
- Shepherdism, New Perspective on Paul, Federal Vision. - The Justification Controversy in Reformed circles. Shepherd, Wright, Dunn, Sanders, Lusk, Wilson, Wilkins, Schissel, Jordan, Leithart, Sandlin

V. The Believer’s Calling- Discernment

- **Know the real to spot the counterfeit!**

- A. 2 Cor. 10:3-6 – The weapons of our warfare.
- B. 1Thess. 5:1-6 – Watch and be sober...
- C. 1Tim., 2 Tim., Titus - Focus on; Teaching, doctrine, instruction etc.
- D. Jude - Contend earnestly!

- **Next Week- a closer look at current “stranger’s voices”.**

Appendix One

Early Christological Heresies Chart

OVERSTATED HUMANITY

Ebionism

Jesus was just a man

Dynamic Monarchianism

Jesus was adopted as God's Son

Arianism

Jesus created subordinate to the Father

OVERSTATED DEITY

Gnosticism

Jesus was an aeon (angel)

Docetism

Jesus was not a real human

Modal Monarchianism

Jesus was a mode of the one God

Council of Nicaea 325Rejects Arianism. Adopts '*homoousios*'.**Apollinarianism**

The Logos took the place of Jesus' human spirit

Council of Constantinople 381

Rejects Arianism & Apollinarianism

Nestorianism

Jesus is two persons

Eutychianism

Jesus has one compound nature

Council of Ephesus 431

Rejects Nestorianism

Monophysitism

Jesus is one nature

Council of Chalcedon 451

Final Christological formulation.

Monothelitism

Jesus has one will

Council of Constantinople 680

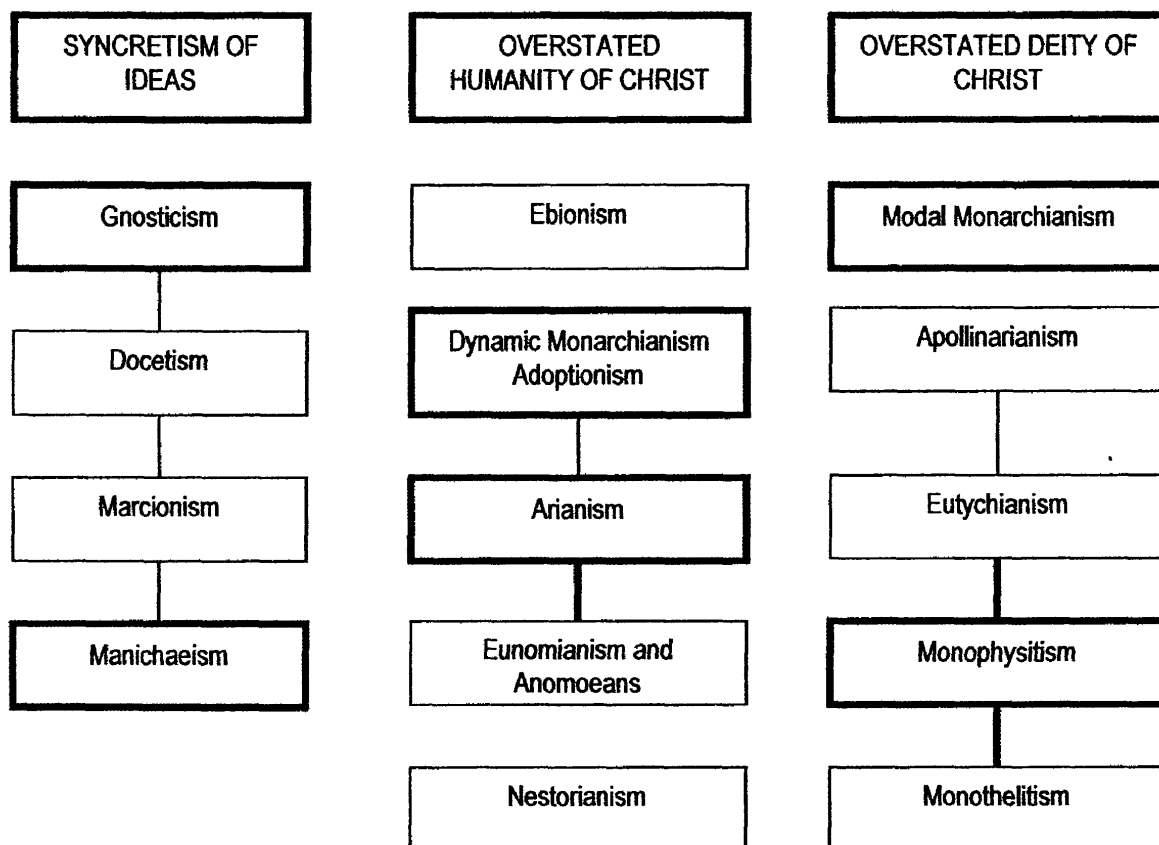
Clarification: Christ has two natures and two wills.

Historical Christological Heresies

Viewpoints of the	Eblonites	Docetists	Arians	Appollinarians	Nestorians	Eutychians
Proponents	Judaizers	Basilides, Valentinus, Patripassians, Sabellians	Arius, presbyter of Alexandria, Origen (?)	Appollinarius, bishop of Laodicea, Justin Martyr	Represented by Nestorius, 5th-century bishop of Constantinople	Represented by Eutychius, Theodosius II
Time	2nd century	Late 1st century	4th century	4th century	5th century	5th century
Denial	Genuine deity	Genuine humanity	Genuine deity	Completeness of humanity	Unity of person	Distinction of natures
Explanation	Christ had the Spirit after his baptism; he was not preexistent.	Jesus appeared human but was really divine.	Christ was the first and highest created being, homolousia, not homoousia.	The divine Logos took the place of the human mind.	Union was moral, not organic-thus two persons. The human was completely controlled by the divine.	Monophysitist; the human nature was swallowed by the divine to create a new third nature-a tertium quid.
Condemned	No official condemnation	No official condemnation	Council of Nicea, A.D. 325	Council of Antioch, A.D. 378, 379 Council of Constantinople, A.D. 381	Synod of Ephesus, A.D. 431	Council of Chalcedon, A.D. 405; defended by "Robber Synod" of Ephesus, A.D. 449; Condemned by Chalcedon, A.D. 451
Associated with	Legalism	Evil of the material world and the spiritual nature of man as taught by Marcion and Gnostics	Generation = creation	Logos=reason in all people	"Word-flesh" (Antiochene) not "word-man" (Alexandrian) Christology; opposed to using theotokos of Mary.	Concern for the unity and divinity of Christ; Alexandrian (minimized humanity)
Argument for	They are monotheistic.	They affirm Christ's deity	They teach that Christ is subordinate to the Father.	Affirmed Christ's deity and real humanness.	Distinguished human Jesus, who died, from Divine Son, who cannot die.	Maintained the unity of Christ's person.
Argument against	Only a divine Christ is worthy of worship (John 1:1; 20:28 Heb. 13:8).	If Christ were not human He could not redeem humanity (Heb. 2:14; 1 John 4:1-3).	Only a divine Christ is worthy of worship; this view tends toward polytheism. Only a divine Christ can save (Phil. 2:6; Rev. 1:8).	If Christ did not have a human mind, he would not be truly human (Heb. 2:14; 1 John 4:1-3).	If the death of Jesus was the act of a human person, not of God, it could not be efficacious (Rev. 1:12-18).	If Christ were neither a man nor God, he could not redeem as man or as God (Phil. 2:6).
Major Opponents	Irenaeus, Hippolytus, Eusebius	Irenaeus, Hippolytus	Athanasius, Ossius	Vitalis, Pope Damascus, Basil, Theodosius, Gregory of Nazianzen, Gregory of Nyssa	Cyril of Alexandria	Flavian of Constantinople, Pope Leo, Theodoret, Eusebius of Dorylaeum

Appendix Two

Flow Chart of various heresies



28. False Views of the Person of Christ

