

Christian Heresies

Christological Heresies

Heresy	Description	Origin	Official Condemnation	Other
Adoptionism	Belief that Jesus was born merely human and that he became divine later in his life.			
Apollinarism	Belief that Jesus had a human body and lower soul (the seat of the emotions) but a divine-mind. Apollinaris further taught that the souls of men were propagated by other souls, as well as their bodies.	proposed by Apollinaris of Laodicea(died 390)	Declared to be a heresy in 381 by the First Council of Constantinople	
Arianism	The teachings adopted by the theologian Arius which state that Christ had been given every honor but divinity, which conflicts with the doctrine of the hypostatic union (Christ's nature was wholly divine and wholly human) which was held by the Church.	The doctrine is associated with Arius (ca. AD 250—336) who lived and taught in Alexandria, Egypt.	Arius was first ruled a heretic at the First Council of Nicea, later exonerated and then pronounced a heretic again after his death.	
Docetism	Belief that Jesus' physical body was an illusion, as was his crucifixion; that is, Jesus only seemed to have a physical body and to physically die, but in reality he was incorporeal, a pure spirit, and hence could not physically die		Docetism was rejected by the ecumenical councils and mainstream Christianity, and largely died out during the first millennium AD.	Gnostic movements that survived past that time, such as Catharism, incorporated docetism into their beliefs, but such movements were destroyed by the Albigensian Crusade (1209–1229).
Macedonians (religious group) <i>orpneumatomachians</i>	Belief that Holy Spirit was a creation of the Son, and a servant of the Father and the	Founded in 4th century by Bishop Macedonius I of		They professed a belief similar to that of Arianism, but apparently denying the divinity of the Holy Spirit, and regarding

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Son	Constantinople		the substance of Jesus Christ as being the same in kind as that of God the Father. This is what prompted the addition of "And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son is equally worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets," into the Nicene Creed at the second ecumenical council. They were regarded as a heretical sect by the mainstream Church. The sect's members were also known as pneumatomachians, the "spirit fighters."
Melchisedechians	Considered Melchisedech an incarnation of the Logos(divine Word) and identified him with the Holy Ghost	Refuted by Marcus Eremita in his book <i>Eis ton Melchisedek</i> ("Against the Melchisedekites")[23]	It is uncertain whether the sect survived beyond the 9th century. They were probably scattered across Anatolia and the Balkans following the destruction of Tephrike.
Monarchianism	Emphasized the indivisibility of God (the Father) at the expense of the other persons of the Trinity.		
Monophysitism or Eutychianism	Belief that Christ has only one nature (divine), as opposed to the Chalcedonian position which holds that Christ has two natures, one divine and one human or the Miaphysite position which holds that the divine and human natures of Christ were united as one divine human nature from the point of the Incarnation onwards.	After Nestorianism was rejected at the First Council of Ephesus, Eutyches emerged with diametrically opposite views.	Eutyches was excommunicated in 448. Monophysitism and Eutyches were rejected at the Council of Chalcedon in 451. Monophysitism is also rejected by the Oriental Orthodox Churches

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Monothelitism	Belief that Jesus Christ had two natures but only one will. This is contrary to the orthodox interpretation of Christology, which teaches that Jesus Christ has two wills (human and divine) corresponding to his two natures	Originated in Armenia and Syria in AD 633	Monothelitism was officially condemned at the Third Council of Constantinople (the Sixth Ecumenical Council, 680–681). The churches condemned at Constantinople include the Oriental Orthodox churches and the Maronite church, although they now deny that they ever held the Monothelite view. Christians in England rejected the Monothelite position at the Council of Hatfield in 680.	
Nestorianism	Belief that Christ exists as two persons, the man Jesus and the divine Son of God, or Logos, rather than as two natures (True God and True Man) of one divine person.	The doctrine is identified with Nestorius (c. 386–c. 451), Archbishop of Constantinople.	This view of Christ was condemned at the Council of Ephesus in 431	the conflict over this view led to the Nestorian schism , separating the Assyrian Church of the East from the Byzantine Church .
Patripassianism	Belief that the Father and Son are not two distinct persons, and thus God the Father suffered on the cross as Jesus.			similar to Sabellianism
Psilanthropism	Belief that Jesus is "merely human": either that he never became divine, or that he never existed prior to his incarnation as a man.		Rejected by the ecumenical councils , especially in the First Council of Nicaea , which was convened to deal directly with the nature of Christ's divinity.	
Sabellianism	Belief that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three aspects of one God, rather than three distinct persons in one God.			

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Reformation

Heresy	Description	Origin	Other
Protestantism	<p>The Five Solas are five Latin phrases (or slogans) that emerged during the Protestant Reformation and summarize the Reformers' basic theological beliefs in opposition to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church of the day.</p> <p><i>Solus Christus: Christ alone. Rejects the Third and Seventh Ecumenical Councils, and the myriad of examples where God directly tells someone to have someone else pray to Him for the addressed person, and the prayer of Christ where He prays not only for the Apostles, but also for those who will believe through them.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sola scriptura: Scripture alone. Only teachings found in the Protestant bible are binding. Rejects Tradition which the Apostles told us to hold fast to (II Thessalonians 2:15), and the Ecumenical Councils themselves.</i> • <i>Sola fide: Faith alone, rejecting the value of good works or prayers towards salvation. Besides rejecting the only verse in the Bible where "Faith alone" is found (James 2:24, the reason why Luther removed James from his canon), it rejects the Sixth and Seventh Ecumenical Councils.</i> 	<p>Originated in the 16th century Protestant Reformation which is generally accepted to have begun in 1517 with Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses as an attempt to reform the Catholic Church.</p>	<p>There are "over 33,000 denominations in 238 countries". There are about 800 million Protestants worldwide, among approximately 1.5 - 2.1 billion Christians.</p> <p>In addition to the <i>Five Solas</i>, most Protestants disbelieve in transubstantiation.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sola gratia</i>. <i>Grace alone</i>. Human initiative has no part in salvation. <i>Rejects the Sixth and Seventh Ecumenical Councils, besides the Apostolic injunction in scripture to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, and the Biblical dogma of synergy.</i> • • <i>Soli Deo gloria</i>. <i>Glory to God alone</i>. Devotion to Mary and the Saints strongly discouraged. <i>Rejects the Third and Seventh Ecumenical Councils, and the example in Numbers where God defends the glory of Moses and St. Paul defends his glory as an Apostle.</i> 		
<p>Calvinism</p> <p>The belief that God chooses to save certain people, not because of any foreseen merit or good in themselves, but totally by his sovereign choice. Calvinism has been summed up in five points, known as TULIP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Total depravity</i>, of humanity. • <i>Unconditional election</i>. God chooses those he wants to save regardless of merit by predestination. • <i>Limited atonement</i>. Jesus died only for the chosen elect. • <i>Irresistible grace</i>. God's saving grace cannot be resisted. • <i>Perseverance</i>, or "Eternal Security". Once cannot lose salvation. 	<p>Calvinism was systematized by John Calvin in mid 16th century Geneva, being further rigorised at the Dutch 17th century Synod of Dort.</p>	<p>Calvinism forms the basis of the doctrines of the Reformed churches, including those of the Netherlands, England, Scotland, and central Europe. Presbyterians, Congregationalists, some Baptist groups, and early Anglicans were influenced by Calvinist teachings. This influence can be found in official documents of these churches: the Westminster Confession (Presbyterian), the Savoy Declaration (Congregational), the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith, and the Thirty-Nine Articles (Anglican).</p>

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Restorationist Heresies

Heresy	Description	Origin	Official condemnation	Other
Jehovah's Witnesses	Religious movement which expects the imminent return of Jesus	It follows the teachings of Charles Taze Russell	The Gruppo di Ricerca e Informazione Socio Religiosa of the Milan Roman Catholic Dioceses declared in a convention in May 2011 that Jehovah's Witnesses doctrine are incompatible with Roman Catholic dogma	
Latter Day Saint movement/ Mormonism	A group of religious denominations and adherents who follow at least some of the teachings and revelations of Joseph Smith, Jr.	Founded by Joseph Smith, Jr. who, in 1827, began to gather a religious following after announcing that an angel had shown him a set of golden plates describing a visit of Jesus to the indigenous peoples of the Americas.	The <i>Response to a dubium on the validity of baptism conferred by the "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints", called "Mormons"</i> issued by the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith considered Mormon baptism invalid; and the Letter from Congregation for Clergy called mormon praxis erroneous practices	After Smith's death in 1844, the movement divided into several groups. -

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Heresies of the Modern Era

Heresy	Description	Origin	Official condemnation	Other
Americanism	A group of related heresies which were defined as the endorsement of freedom of the press, liberalism, individualism, and separation of church and state, as an insistence upon individual initiative, what could be incompatible with the principle of Catholicism of obedience to authority.		Condemned by Pope Leo XIII on his letter <i>Testem Benevolentiae Nostrae</i> in 1899	
Modernism	Evolution of dogma in time and space	Alfred Loisy, George Tyrell, Ernesto Buonaiuti	Condemned by popes Leo XIII and Pius X in a series of encyclical between 1893 and 1910	
Anglo-Israelism	Holds that English and to a lesser extent white peoples are the descendants of the ancient Israelites.			Forms the Basis of the Christian Identity Movement .
Feeneyism	A theology that favors a strict interpretation of the doctrine <i>extra Ecclesiam nulla salus</i> ("outside the church there is no salvation").	Associated with Leonard Feeney (1897–1978), a Jesuit priest and founder of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.		
Positive Christianity	A term adopted by Nazi leaders to refer to a model of Christianity consistent with Nazism.			With the fall of the Nazi regime in 1945, Positive Christianity as a movement fell into obscurity. It continues to be espoused by some Christian Identity groups, but has been rejected by mainstream Christian churches.
Sedevacantism	The position held by some Traditionalist Catholics who claim that the Papal See has			

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Catholics who claim that the Papal See has

	been vacant since the death of Pius XII.			
Community of the Lady of All Nations	The movement believes that its 90-year-old founder, Marie Paule Giguère reincarnates Virgin Mary	Founded by Marie Paule Giguère in Quebec in 1971.	Excommunicated as heresy by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on July 11, 2007[32]	also known as Army of Mary
Christian Zionism	Belief that the "ingathering" of Jews in Israel is a prerequisite for the Second Coming of Jesus. This belief is primarily, though not exclusively, associated with Christian Dispensationalism .		The Jerusalem Declaration on Christian Zionism (August 22, 2006), rejects Christian Zionism, concluding that it is a "false teaching that corrupts the biblical message of love, justice and reconciliation."	

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