

**THE NEED FOR THEOLOGICAL INTEGRITY:**  
THE EARLIEST HERESIES  
Church History 1, Outline 3

**I. Gnosticism**

A. Key Gnostic Teachers

B. Gnostic Doctrine

C. The Orthodox Champion--Irenaeus

Irenaeus's critique of Gnosticism:

1. Gnostic worldview an invented mythology
2. The idea of a Gnostic inner circle with Jesus is false
3. Shows Gnostic interpretation of Scripture in error
4. The Incarnation the foundation of the faith

## **II. Marcion—A Renegade Gnostic**

A. The man

B. Marcion's theology

## **III. Montanism**

## **IV. Monarchianism**

A. Dynamic Monarchianism (Adoptionism)

B. Modalist Monarchianism

## **V. Manichaeism**

## **VI. Neoplatonism**

Definition of mysticism (metaphysical and epistemological):

"Mysticism: The timeless quest for higher/hidden truth, spiritual experiences, and knowledge of God by using imagination, intuition, so-called 'Holy Spirit revelations,' and subjective feelings rather than fact, reason, and the undistorted Word of God."

Three kinds of focus in mystical thought:

a. Mysticism as epistemological satisfaction

b. Mysticism as metaphysical exploration

c. Mysticism as ethical fulfillment (a better approach?)

*\* This material was developed by and is used with the consent of Dr. Chad Brand - SBTS, KY*