

A Brief Outline of Six False Views of the Person of Christ

1) Ebionism

- a) Denies the genuineness of Christ's Deity.
- b) He was the natural son of Joseph and Mary.
- c) He was sinless but not divine; destined to become the Messiah.
- d) He became divine when the Spirit came on him at his baptism.
 - i) A pre-cursor to Dynamic Monarchianism.

2) Arianism

- a) Denies the completeness of Christ's Deity.
- b) Christ was a creature, not eternal.
 - i) There was a time when the Son did not exist.
- c) Son was in 'subordination' to the Father.

3) Docetism

- a) Denies the genuineness of Christ's humanity.
- b) Christ was not really in the flesh.
 - i) Since all matter was evil, so he only 'seemed' to be a human.

4) Apollinarianism

- a) Denies the completeness of Christ's humanity.
- b) He had a human body and soul, but the divine Logos replaced his spirit.

5) Nestorianism

- a) Divide Christ's person.
- b) He was two persons.
 - i) Christ's human nature was born by Mary, but his divine nature always existed as the Logos and was joined to Christ's human spirit.
 - ii) His human and divine sides were joined (like twins), but not merged.

6) Eutychianism

- a) Confuse Christ's natures.
- b) Christ had a single mixed nature, thus he was not fully human.
 - i) Christ's humanity was absorbed by the divine

From the following sources:

Thomas Oden, *The Word of Life*, pg. 186

Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, pg. 755

Notes from Early Church History class.