DECEPTION AND HERESY
History, Identification and Defeat
60-110 AD
(part one)

EMPEROR	**Nero** (54-68)	**Vespasian** (69-79) **Titus** 79-81	**Nerva** 96-98 **Domitian** 81-96	**Trajan** 98-117	**Hadrian** 117-138
PERSECUTION	**64-68**		**90-96**	**98-117**	**117-138**
JERUSALEM	**James** (30-63)	**Simeon** (63-107)	**Justus I** (107-113) **Zaccheus** (113-?) **Tobias** (?-117)	**Benjamin**	
in ANTIOCH	**Evodius** (53-66)		**Ignatius** (50-117)	**Heron** (117-127)	
in EPHESUS	**Timothy** (62-97)	**John** (66-98)			
HIERAPOLIS			**Papias** (60-163)		
in SMYRNA		**Polycarp** (70-155)			
	60	**80**	**100**	**120**	
in ROME	**Peter** (63-64)	**Linus** (67-76) **Anacletus** (76-88)	**Clement I** (88-97) **Evaristus** (97-105)	**Alexander I** (105-115) **Sixtus I** (115-125)	**Telesphorus** (125-136)
OTHER LEADERS	**Paul** (38-68)	**Hermas** (in Rome; 90)	**Quadratus** (Athens; died 129)	**Aristides** (Athens; died 134)	
????					
HERETICS	**Judaizers** (40-70)	**Simon Magus** (34-60) **Nicolas** (30-70)	**Cerinthus** (30-100)	**Basilides** (125, Alexandria)	
HERESYS	**Justification by Mosaic Law** (40-70)	**Nicolaitans** (60-98)	**Ebionism** (50-135)	**Docetism** **Adoptionism** **Gnosticism** *(50-300)*	

Events:
1. 48 AD Jerusalem Council
2. *64 AD Rome Burns*
3. 70 AD Jerusalem Falls

Emperors: **Persecution**
1. Nero (54-68 AD) . . . . 64-68 AD
2. Vespasian (69-79)
3. Titus (79-81)
4. Domitian (81-96) . . . . 90-96 AD
5. Nerva (96-98)
6. Trajan (98-117) . . . . 98-117 AD

Leaders:
1. In Jerusalem
   a. James (30-63)
   b. Simeon (62-107)
   c. Justus I (107-113)
   d. Zaccheus (113- ?)
2. In Antioch
   a. Evodius (53-66)
   b. Ignatius (50-117)
   c. Heron (117-127)
3. In Ephesus
   a. Timiothy
   b. John
4. In Hierapolis
   a. Papias (60-163)
5. In Smyrna
   a. Polycarp (70-155)
6. In Athens
   a. Quadratus (died 129)
   b. Aristides (died 134)
7. In Rome
   a. Peter (63-64)
   b. Linus (67-76)
   c. Anacletus (76-88)
   d. Clement I (88-97)
   e. Evaristus (97-105)
   f. Alexander I (105-115)

Heretics:
1. Judaizers (40-70)
2. Simon Magus (30-60)
3. Nicolas (30-70)
4. Cerinthus (30-100)

Heresies:
1. Justification by Law (40-70)
2. Nicolaitans (60-98)
3. Ebionism (50-135)
4. Docetism
5. Adoptionism
6. "Gnosticism" (*50-300*)

Heresy, Choices

Heresy – 'αιρεσις /hairesis/ means "choice", "a thing chosen"
- The Greek word comes from αιρεω /haireo/ meaning "to choose"
- Used in regard to specific philosophical thought.
- It was originally a neutral word in philosophy and used by Philo
- In Classic Greek it could be a good or bad choice
- It could refer to such things as a Hellenistic Heresy which merely meant the way the Greek thought, then acted, then grouped together as a community in though, life style, behavior, and a community with similar thoughts and behavior
- Used to refer to Jewish sects:
  - Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes and, eventually, the sect of Christians
  - Used and translated as "sects" or "heresy" to refer to the above in: Acts 5:17 (Sadducees); 15:5; 24:5 (Nazarenes), 14 (Christians); 26:5 (Pharisees); 28:22 (Christians)

- Hebrew the word was "min" מִן and was used to refer to the Jewish sects:
- Also used in the New Testament ('αιρεσις /hairesis/) to refer to factions that divided the Christian unity of the true faith (The Truth of "The Faith")
  - 1 Corinthians 11:18-29 –
    "For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are **divisions** (_schismata_=/skhis-mah/ = "a split", "division") among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be **factions** (_haireseis_)among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized."
  - Galatians 5:19-21 –
    "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, **divisions** (_haireseis_="factions, choices, opinions"), envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do[e] such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."
  - 2 Peter 2:1 – "False prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive **heresies** (_haireseis_), even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction."
  - Titus 3:10 – "As for a person who stirs up **division** ('αιρετικοϖ, _hairetikos_) after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned."
    - ('αιρετικοϖ, /hahee-ret-eekos/, hairetikos = "causing division" and used to say "forms sects, heretical, factious)
- These choices ('αιρεσις /hairesis/) cause "divisions"
- False teachers or heretics are described in Jude 1:19 as:
  "It is these who cause **divisions**, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit."
  - _apodiorizo_="to mark of" from "diorizo" meaning "to divide by limits", "separate" and used to say "drawing boundaries"

There is ONE Truth and ONE Faith referred to as "THE TRUTH" or "THE FAITH" which means there is unity. The Faith has been once for all entrusted to the saints and is handed down and received by others. This One Truth provides unity in the church.

Because there is ONE TRUTH or THE FAITH that is handed down and received any "CHOICE" or "HERESY" concerning points of doctrine of THE FAITH will cause "division". Any choice is then:
- Not THE truth
- Different
- False, because it is not the same and not the truth
- Is a "gospel" that is NOT a gospel
- This is corruption and not tolerance
- Will cause division

Thus, HERESY or "choices" of doctrine become bad, evil and are to be avoided.
- "Heresy" began to refer to communities hostile to orthodox Christianity around 112 AD
  - Ignatius used "heresy" in his letter to the Trallians 6:1 to identify Docetic teaching
    - Docetic teaching was an early church heresy that taught that Jesus Christ did not have a real or a natural physical body on earth during his lifetime. Their claim is Jesus had an apparent body or was a phantom.
    - **Docetic** comes from the Greek word:
      - δόκησις - '*dokesis* which means "apparition" or "phantom"
      - δοκεῖν - *dokein* which means "to seem"
    - Docetism was officially renounced and rejected as heresy or heterodox doctrine at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.
    - See part of Ignatius' Letter to the Trallians from 112 AD below.
- By 200 AD "Heresy" referred to teaching that was not in agreement with orthodox doctrine.
- "Heresy" is also used by Ignatius (of Antioch, Syria) in a letter to refer to false doctrine:
  - **Ignatius** Epistle to Ephesians 6:2 (112 AD) -
    "indeed Onesimus himself greatly commends your good order in God, that you all live according to the truth, and that no **sect** has any dwelling-place among you. Nor, indeed, do you hearken to any one rather than to Jesus Christ speaking in truth.
- Heresy grew as people and believers tried to:
  - Understand the Faith
  - Explain the Faith
- Some heresy was intentional, but some was in ignorance
  - Intentional corruption or intentional heresy
  - Corruption from ignorance or heresy due to ignorance or unfinished thought
- Heresy force Christianity to develop, or to Finish their Thought, to create systematic theology:
  - Heresy caused Christians to correct doctrine that become orthodox theology
    - "orthodox" means – "conforming to what is generally or traditionally accepted as right or true; established and approved."
    - Formulation of Doctrine was often the result of correcting an error
    - The Doctrine of the Trinity was developed because of the heresy of:
      - Montanism
      - Monarchianism
      - Arianism

- Correct language to communicate orthodox faith
- Identify foundational documents (or, the New Testament Canon)
- Refute heresy
- Establish boundaries on certain doctrines and in areas of theology
  - unknown information and disputed points needed boundaries
  - distinguish between doctrine and speculation

Deceive and Deceit

- **Deceive**

  - נָשָׁא - *Nasha* – "to lead astray", "to mentally delude", "to morally seduce", "deceive", "beguile"

  - פָּתָה – *Pathah* – from a verb meaning "be spacious, wide, open" and was used to say "to be simple, entice, deceive, persuade, open-minded, seduce

  - πλανάω - *Planao* – "to cause to roam", "to go astray", "to deceive", "to seduce", "to lead away from truth", "to lead into error", "to lead aside from the path of virtue"

  - ἐξαπατάω – *Exapatao* – "to deceive", "to seduce wholly", "beguile"

  - φρεναπατάω – *Phrevapatao* – "to deceive the mind", "confused inside-out" used to identify the victim of one's own confused mind-set.

  - δολιόω – Dolioo – "to deceive" used to say "act deceitfully," "use fraud"

  Satan is a master of deception:
  - 1 Timothy 2:14 – "Adam was not **deceived**, but the woman was **deceived** (ἐξαπατάω, exapataó /ex-ap-at-ah-o/ and became a transgressor."
  - Revelation 20:7,8,10 – "And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to **deceive** (πλανάω, planao, / plan-ah-o/) the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle…the devil who had **deceived** (πλανάω, planao, /plan-ah-o/) them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- **Deceit**

  - מִרְמָה - *Mirmah* – "deceit", "treachery"

  - שֶׁקֶר - *Sheqer* – "deception", "disappointment", "falsehood"

  - עָוֶל - *Awel* – /eh'-vel/ – "injustice", "unrighteousness"

- δόλος - *Dolos* – "a bait", "craft", "deceit" meaning "guile", "treachery", "trickery" using bait to lure or hook people, using decoys and exploiting the naïve.
- πλάνη - *Plane* – /plan'-ay/ - "a wandering"; figuratively meaning "deceit", "delusion", "error", "sin"

Warning False Teachers:
- Colossians 2:8-9 – "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily."

False Prophets:
- Jeremiah 14:14 – "And the Lord said to me: "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds."
- Luke 6:26 – ""Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets."
- 2 Peter 2:1 – "false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction."

False Believers:
- Galatians 2:4-5 – "Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery— to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you."

False Apostles:
- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 – "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.
- Revelation 2:2 – "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false."

False Spirits:
1 Timothy 4:1 – "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared."

False Messiahs:
Matthew 24:24-25 – "For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand."

Heresy Compared to Interpretation or Understanding

- Not all error is heresy, but all heresy is error.
- Prevent unnecessary separation and enable the church to maintain both unity and Truth.
- Heresy demands separation.
- There can be no unity with a heresy because by definition heresy is a different Truth, so a lie.

Absolute doctrinal examples necessary for unity that cannot be compromised or misunderstood:

1. the deity of Christ
2. the Trinity
3. the virgin birth of Christ (humanity of Christ)
4. the bodily resurrection of Christ
5. justification by faith alone in Christ alone for salvation
6. the inspiration of Scripture

Orthodox

1. The above truths or doctrines would be considered orthodox.
2. The word "orthodox" means "conforming to what is generally or traditionally accepted as right or true; established and approved."
3. The vocabulary word "orthodox" should not be confused with the sect of Christianity entitled the Orthodox Church or the Eastern Orthodox Church.
   a. This second Orthodox is spelled with a capital "O", the adjective "orthodox" is a lower case "o".
   b. The branch of Christianity known as Eastern Orthodox Church is a group that separated from the Roman Catholic Church (the Latin Church, or the Western Latin Church) in 1054 after several centuries of unreconcilable differences. This separation is known as the East-West Schism or the Great Schism.
      i. This is similar to another split that occurred when the Protestant Reformation split from the Roman Church beginning with Martin Luter in 1517 and became official at the Diet or Worms in 1521 (an assembly of the Holy Roman Empire at Worms, Germany.
      ii. This created three general sects of Christianity:
         1. Roman Catholic (Latin Church)
         2. Eastern Orthodox (Greek Church)
         3. Protestant

Heresy or Error

- There is a dividing line between heresy and error.
- A person involved in heresy has by definition left the Christian faith.
- A person in "error" is in the Christian faith with a doctrinal view different than the person who is identifying "error".
- The use of the word "heresy" as a technical term to describe a deviation in doctrine should be reserved for doctrinal error that denies Christian truth necessary for salvation.

A person can hold to heretical doctrine, but because of ignorance or lack of teaching not be a heretic in the technical sense. This person may focus and adjust their belief system and lifestyle with further teaching and a more accurate presentation of the Word of God.

It is necessary that the believer be able to sort out heretical issues that need to be stopped from the non-essential issues of faith that can be tolerated in unity while continuing to teaching and grow. Even though the doctrines themselves are important, there may be different ways of understanding Scripture and applying the doctrines that does not require separation or the label of "heresy". We may consider someone's interpretation of Scripture as being in error. Other believers may perceive your application of doctrine as an error. Some things are **<u>non-essential</u>** and Christian fellowship can be maintained even though we may consider a doctrine, an interpretation or a lifestyle application as an error. Some examples might be:

- Differences of the practice or views of baptism. Infant baptism? Full immersion?
- Requirement of head coverings
- Consumption of wine

Doctrinal differences are not automatically heresies. Many of these are **<u>interpretation differences</u>**:

- Rapture…yes/no…when?
- Bible translation? KJ only? NIV, ESV, etc.
- Charismatic gifts? Passed away…some…all…none?
- Women pastors?

Once a doctrine or teaching finds its source or authority outside the Bible the error or doctrinal differences can become more serious. This is the first step away from the orthodox teaching. This can lead to **<u>false teaching</u>**, but may not yet be heresy:

- Annihilation instead of eternal hell…a false teaching…but, is it yet heresy?

Heresy will be teaching that contradict the foundation of Christianity. These would qualify as **<u>heresy</u>**:

- All religions are the same
- Jesus was not God
- Everyone goes to heaven
- Rejecting the authority of Scripture
- Justification by works

Anyone who embraces a heresy is not a Christian.

All of us as Christians have at some point (or, even now) held to a false teaching. And, surely, we have interpretation differences and disagree on non-essential points of doctrine.

But, a heresy is a belief, a doctrine, a practice that is outside of the orthodox Christian faith and those who follow the heresy are outside of Christ.

Christians who differ concerning the non-essentials, or have interpretation differences or are caught up in a false teaching are still unified in Christ, but for practical purposes may have to operate with boundaries to maintain the peace of unity.

Heretics should be identified and abandoned concerning Christian unity and peace.

Relativism

Openly opposing heresy is challenging in our modern Western culture because we live in a world that has been taught relativism. The philosophical definition of "truth" according to relativism is that truth is what you perceive it to be. According to relativism this means that what may be true for one person may not be true for someone else. Yet relativism allows each person to find their truth, but absolutely forbids anyone to identify any person's truth to be false. As a result, Western Christianity is made of people that have come out of a culture that rejects the concept of a heresy. Today's Christianity naturally think it is "unchristian" to reject someone's doctrine or to label something someone believes as heresy.

Of course, this whole premise becomes more confused when the process of labeling something an error is itself a heresy according to the philosophy of relativism. So, those who live according to relativism cannot say I have made an error when I judge something to be an error since their act of judging my judgement of an error is unfounded in their relativism.

Liberalism and Fundamentalism

Also in our culture are two extremes: liberalism and fundamentalism

Today's Christian liberals refuse the authority, or even the existence, of Scripture. This faulty view of the Word of God makes it impossible for the liberal Christian to even consider any view in Christianity to be heretical. For them every difference in opinion is non-essential. Based on their view of Scripture, opinions cannot be an interpretation difference and nothing can be classified as false doctrine. They are adrift.

On the other side of the debate is the Christian fundamentalist. The very foundation of Fundamentalism is the authority of Scripture and the sufficiency of Scripture. As a fundamentalist any deviation concerning a viewpoint of the Wod of God can quickly reach the level of heresy. Extreme Fundamentalism can easily justify breaking the bond of peace and abandon all thought of Christian unity because of differing opinions concerning non-essential points of doctrine. The best way to handle differences in non-essential points of doctrine is to keep the peace and advance in unity to seek a greater understanding of the Truth in Christ and in the Scripture.

Part of the deception can actually be the radical elevation of non-essential doctrinal viewpoints to the level of heresy. This will destroy the peace and break the unity just as efficiently as a heresy of a demonic doctrine.

Doctrinal Splits and Heresies in the Early Church		
Name of Group or Division	**Years**	**History and Doctrinal Characteristics of Group**
Ebionism	50-135	Need for **the Mosaic Law** in Salvation A **Christological** Heresy Did not agree with the Apostle Paul's position. Jesus is the man anointed by the Spirit who became the Messiah. Jesus was not God. Were looking for the imminent Millennium Used Matthew and Hebrews.
Gnosticism	50-300	Began with pagan philosophical ideas and incorporated it into Christian doctrine. Forms of this are beginning in Paul and John's day. Marcion (85-160) made the greatest advances with Gnostic theology. Marcion was excommunicated in 144.
Montanism	170-280 (400's-Small; 800's-Still Some)	An **ancient Pentecostal** group Named after Montanus. Appeared mainly in Phrygia (in Asia Minor) but spread throughout the Roman empire. Montanus said he was the Word of God and claimed to have direct revelations from the Holy Sprit. They encouraged ecstatic prophesying. They believed sinning Christians could not be redeemed, forbid remarriage, firm church discipline, celebrated Easter on Nisan 14.

Manichaeism	200-600	A **major Gnostic** religion Based on the writings of Mani (210-276) who lived in Babylon. Mani was visited as a youth by a spirit that taught him truths. These truths gave him divine knowledge which liberated his insight and understanding, and he became a "Gnostic". Mani was the Paraclete of Truth which was promised in Scripture. At its peak it reached from China to Spain.
Modalists or **Sabellianism**	190-268	**Trinitarian Heresy** God is a single person. God revealed himself in the Old Testament as the Father, in the gospels he manifested as the Son, after Jesus ascension God takes the form of the Holy Spirit. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit never existed at the same time. Some modern groups still hold to this. They deny the Trinity, claim that the name of God is Jesus and accuse Trinitarians of having three gods. Council of Antioch condemns it in 268.
Patripassianism	190-200	**Trinitarian Heresy** God the Father became incarnate, suffered and died and was resurrected. God the Father became the Son. Condemned at Rome in 200.
Monarchians	190-300	**Trinitarian Heresy** Also called Adoptionism Jesus became Christ at His baptism, was adopted by the Father after His death. God existed in Jesus in a powerful way. By 300 Manarchianists have become Arians.

Novatianism	250	**Re-admittance to the Church** Novatius refused to give communion to believers who had denied their faith, offered sacrifices to the emperor or handed over Scriptures to be burned during the persecution of Decius in 250.
Donatists	303-409	**Re-admittance to the Church** Followers of Donatus Magnus refused to accept Christians who gave up Scriptures and did not recognize bishops who were ordained by a church leader who had handed over the Scriptures during the Diocletian persecution (303-305). They claimed to be the true church and separated from the accepted mainline church. The group continued past 409 and survived the Vandal invasions even though the Roman Church tried to take possession of their churches by force several times.
Arianism	300-400	**Christological** Heresy Christ is the first created being. Supporters: Arius, Eusebius of Nicomedia
Eusebianism		**Christological** Heresy Also called "Semi-Arianism" Christ is of similar essence with the Father but is subordinate to Him.
Macedonianism		**Trinitarian** Heresy Also called "Pneumatomachism". The Holy Spirit is a created being.
Apollinarianism		**Christological** Heresy Christ had no human spirit. The Logos was Christ's spirit. Jesus was God, but not fully human. Jesus had a human body and a human soul but not a human spirit.

Nestorianism	400-500	**Christological** Heresy The Logos indwelt the human man Jesus, which made Jesus a God-bearing man. Jesus then has two distinct natures that were completely separate. Jesus was God and Jesus was man, but as two separate persons. There are still Nestorian churches in Iran and Iraq.
Eutychianism	433	**Christological** Heresy The human nature of Christ was absorbed by the Logos. Jesus was neither fully human or fully divine, but was a mixture of humanity and divinity.
Docetism	110	**Christological Heresy** Jesus was God, but not human. Jesus only appeared to be human. "Docetism" comes from Greek word *dokesis* which means "to seem". Ignatius warns the church of Smyrna of the danger of this in 117.
Monophysitism	451	**Christological** Heresy Christ had one nature. Jesus was God with human attributes, yet he had one divine nature. Declared a heresy in 451 at the fourth Church council in Chalcedon.
Monothelitism	600's	**Christological** Heresy Christ had no human will, only the divine will. The Maronite church in Syria holds to this view today.
Pelagianism	415-431	Pelagian Controversy concerned **how and who are saved** Man is born essentially good and capable of doing what is necessary for salvation. The Council of Ephesus in 431 declared it heretical.
Augustinianism		Part of the Pelagian Controversy concerning **how and who are saved**. Man is dead in sin; salvation is totally by the grace of God, which is given only to the elect.
Semi-Pelagianism		Part of the Pelagian Controversy concerning **how and who are saved**. The grace of God and the will of man work together in salvation, in which man must take the initiative.
Semi-Augustinianism		Part of the Pelagian Controversy concerning **how and who are saved**. The grace of God comes to all, enabling a person to choose and perform what is necessary for salvation.