

A SUMMARY OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN BELIEFS & HERESIES

AREA OF FAITH	ORTHODOX BELIEFS	HERESIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Doctrine about</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE TRINITY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">God is Triune - One God in Three Persons Father – Son - Holy Spirit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Three Persons of the Trinity are - <i>Consubstantial (of one substance)</i> <i>Co-equal (all equal)</i> <i>Co-eternal (all eternal/uncreated)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">They have always existed. There was never a time when they did not exist.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jesus the Son existed before the Creation of the Universe and was <i>Co-Creator with</i> God the Father & God the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>Arianism Arius asked: How can the Father be the Son? and claimed The Father existed before the Son and they were not co-eternal.</p> <p>Islam denies Jesus is God and claims he is just a prophet like Mohammed. Muslims believe Christians worship three gods.</p> <p>Jehovah’s Witnesses also deny the divinity of Christ and say he is the Archangel Michael in human form.</p> <p>Marcionism claimed the God of the Old Testament is different from the God of the New Testament.</p> <p>Modalism claimed God is One person in three modes – one mode at a time.</p> <p>Monarchianism denied three separate Persons in the Trinity: they are just three facets of the One person (as the Sun is hot, round and bright at the same time).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Doctrine about</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">JESUS CHRIST</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Biblical doctrine of the Christian Church has maintained that Jesus Christ is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Co-eternal & co-equal with Father & Spirit</i> • <i>Co-Creator of the Universe</i> • <i>Conceived supernaturally by the Spirit</i> • <i>Born naturally of the Virgin Mary</i> • <i>Jesus is both fully divine and fully human</i> • <i>He was crucified on the Cross for our sins</i> • <i>He died a physical death and was buried</i> • <i>He rose to life from the tomb to give us eternal life & promise of physical resurrection</i> • <i>He ascended back to heaven</i> • <i>He is coming back to claim his own</i> • <i>He will judge the living & the dead and will bring in God’s eternal kingdom-rule</i> 	<p>Arianism claimed the Son is not co-eternal with the Father but was created. [The Nicene Creed of 325AD was designed to answer this.]</p> <p>Docetism claimed Jesus was fully divine but only <i>seemed</i> human [Greek <i>dokesis=appearance</i>]</p> <p>Eutychianism claimed Jesus was just human, not divine.</p> <p>Islam accepts Jesus’ humanity born of Mary but denies his divinity and says he is just a prophet like Mohammed.</p> <p>Monophysitism denied Christ’s humanity saying he had a single (<i>mono</i>) divine nature [cf Eastern Orthodox Church doctrine today]</p> <p>Mormonism claims Christ’s death bought general atonement for all mankind. They also baptise on behalf of the dead for remission of sins.</p>

		<p>Nestorianism claimed Jesus was born a human being only and was filled with the divine <i>Logos</i> or Spirit at baptism.</p> <p>New Age beliefs claim there is no such thing as sin, judgement, heaven or hell, and so no need for faith in the Person and Finished Work of Christ on the Cross.</p>
<p><i>Doctrine About</i></p> <p>MANKIND, SIN & SALVATION</p>	<p>Biblical doctrine holds that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mankind is subject to <i>original sin</i> as a result of Adam & Eve’s rebellion • Human beings cannot save themselves by good works - only by responding to God’s love and free offer of salvation through faith in Christ’s finished work on the Cross • Mankind has free will to choose to accept God’s offer or not but God knows who are his children because he is outside of time and space. <p>[This is the doctrine of Election=Choice and Predestination]</p>	<p>Original sin and man’s inability to save himself was denied by a monk named Pelagius in <i>Pelagianism</i>.</p> <p>Donatism held that the validity of a sacrament such as baptism lay in the holiness of the person baptising you (thus denying the finished work of Christ on the Cross and at his resurrection.)</p> <p>Gnosticism was claimed salvation was only for those who had the secret <i>gnosis</i> (Greek word <i>gnosis</i>= knowledge) Angel worship is part of this pseudo-spirituality which Paul criticises in <i>Letter to the Colossians</i>.</p> <p>Other heresies include New Age beliefs which deny the need for salvation through faith in Christ’s death on the Cross for our sins. You simply need ‘to seek the god within you.’</p>