

Just Thinking Apologetics

The earliest Greek manuscripts clearly presented Jesus as divine. The early Church fathers considered Jesus as divine. The divinity of Jesus is without question in the New Testament, but some were questioning the dual nature of Jesus (100% man and 100% God) early on (see 2 John: 7). Heresies or unorthodox beliefs crept into the Church and this is what I would like to consider next. The heresies to be considered next all relate to the incorrect nature of Jesus as presented in the Bible.

The first to consider is **Docetism**. Docetism sprang up early, as many believe John addressed this group in his 1st epistle (see 1 John 4:1-3). Docetism is from the Greek word *dokeō*, which means, “to seem.” This group, which is related to **Gnosticism**, contended that Jesus only seemed to be a human when in reality he had only a body of spirit or an immaterial body.

Another early heretical group were referred to as **Ebionism**. This group can trace its origins to the second century. Their view of Jesus was just the opposite of Docetism, as they saw Jesus as only a human. They rejected the virgin birth of Jesus and were pronounced early by the Church as believing in heresy. In the coming weeks I will examine other groups that had an incorrect understanding of the nature of Jesus.