

HISTORICAL THEOLOGICAL CONTROVERSIES

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Early Church Was Beset By Doctrinal Problems From The Beginning
 - A. Judaism threatened the very life of the young church
 - B. The Gnostic controversy of the first century, which denied the humanity of our Lord, penetrated the church
 - C. Drifting away from the New Testament pattern of church government
 - D. The Nicene Creed, from the Council of Nicea, 325 A.D., assembled by Emperor Constantine
 - E. The union of church and state in the east
 1. State government still dominates the Orthodox church
 - F. In the Middle Ages, the church dominated the states in the west
 1. The church finally split permanently into two groups in 1054 A. D.
 - a. Eastern section of the Roman Empire - the Orthodox
 - b. Western section of the Roman Empire - the Catholic
2. Western Christianity Has Undergone Tremendous Change Since the Year 1500 (Value Is Mooted)
 - A. In the Sixteenth Century man decided he needed a new church
 1. Church hopelessly splintered by Protestant Reformation
 - a. Lutheran 1517
 - b. Reformed churches 1530's
 - c. Anglican 1532
 - d. Presbyterian 1560
 - e. Anabaptist 1607
 - f. Methodist 1739
 - B. In the Eighteenth Century man decided he needed a new Christ
 1. His deity was brought into question

and eventually mostly humanized

C. In the Nineteenth Century man decided he needed a new God

D. In the Twentieth Century man decided he needed a new religion

1. These religious upheavals have left Christianity divided into four main parts
 - a. Fundamentalism
 - b. Modernism
 - c. Humanism
 - d. Neo-Orthodoxy
 1. Mostly since World War II

I. DURING THESE YEARS ALL KINDS OF FALSE DOCTRINES HAVE POLLUTED THE STREAM OF RELIGION

1. A List False Doctrines Would Be Nearly Endless

- A. Change in church government
Division over the nature of Christ
Development of the Papacy
Augustinian concept of predestination
Premillennialism
Design and mode of baptism
Salvation by faith alone
Impossibility of apostasy
Theistic evolution
Papal infallibility when speaking ex cathedra
Transcendentalism
Transubstantiation

II. THE BASIC PROBLEM HAS ALWAYS BEEN, *AND STILL IS*, OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD AUTHORITY

1. God Has Given Us An Absolute Authority - The Bible
2. Some Say God Does Not Exist And Only Material Values Exist
3. Many So-Called Christians Believe That Man Is To Act And React Depending On The Circumstances (Situational Ethics)