

You will find practically nothing new said against Christianity that was not anticipated or expressed by these earlier critics.

d. Synchretisms

A synchretism is the winding together of separate ideals to form a whole. It results in a new product that effectively alters (or destroys) the integrity of the previous systems. These are always dangerous although often advertised as beneficial. I mention a few without great detail.

-Docetism..

-Ebionitism

-Elkasites

-Mithraism

e. Rival Religious systems

There is some overlap here but we can live with it. Note in particular:

-Manicheanism: combining gnostic ideals and having a two structured organization, (the learners and the perfect) Marked by austerity and extreme asceticism.

-Mithraism

3. Heresies

Heresy is essentially an error in which a point of truth is held to such an extreme that it destroys (or diminuates) the true nature of salvation.

Apostasy is the turning away from a position to follow another that is, in the main, diametrically opposed.

a. Monarchianism

This heresy was an attempt to protect the integrity of one god against what was perceived as a threat by three gods.