

The proponents had trouble with the Trinity doctrine and feared it looked like an old polytheism. They countered it by suggesting that the monarch, or single God, manifested himself in different forms. There were two schools of thought:

modalistic monarchianism suggested God disguised himself and came in the mode of the son, Jesus...

dynamic monarchianism suggested that the single deity "took over" the human Jesus for a time.

The "pioneers" in this thinking included Noetus (ca 190), Praxeus (200) and Sabellius (225). The Roman bishops, Callistus and Zephyrinus were accused of this error.

The error is identified with the term "patripassionism" meaning that the Father died on the cross (and you will hear people pray that way, at times). The best known groups of this thinking today are the "Jesus Only" people..but many attempted definitions or descriptions of the Trinity are monarchian in form so be careful.

#### b. Montanism

Developing about 150 AD this was a move intended to deliver the church from worldliness and lethargy by paying more attention to the Holy Spirit and the gifts that are identified as charismata. The leading teacher, Montanus, had a following that soon seemed to move to excesses both in the concept of continuing revelation and in the need for ascetic living. At some point in his life, Tertullian was a Montanist and the attractiveness of the group was for a more spiritual life..not bad in itself, but with questionable means of attainment.

There are others..but for the moment, too minute for a fast course. Remember that any addition or augmentation of the Word of God as our standard..may well result in a harmful heresy.