III.2.d
  Internal
  Stress

## Divisiveness: Internal Problems

Our previous material dealt with problems arising outside the community and bringing pressures to bear upon it...more or less. This segment of material relates largely to problems originating within the community and producing division and dissension.

### Monarchianism:

The question is one regarding the Person of the Deity and was waged originally aainst multiforms and hierarchical idealogies. In the face of the widespread polytheism the intention was to present the concept of a single deity (the monarch) who was intelligent, personal, and knowable in contrast to the pagan gods. But the singularity idea overshadowed the concept of the Trinity and made the real understanding of the godhead impossible. It effectively denied the personal deity of the Lord Jesus as well as that of the Holy Spirit and came to be the largest of the pre-Nicene errors.

Broken down into its components, monarchianism is the idea that there is but one God who is a single entity ✓ and monarch over the entire universe. The trinity is not a true picture and the Son and Spirit are mystical abstractions (manifestations) of the true and only God. As a movement it is a force largely after 150 AD and the primary teachers were:

                Sabellius (225)
                        Noetus (190)
                                Praxeus (200)

While we have no sympathy with it as a teaching, we can understand how the ideas came to be. Defending the truth against polytheism and not being able to comprehend the trinity idea, the monarch concept sounded good. It is a classic expression of heresy, however, in which one aspect of truth is so emphasized as to deny the validity of the total picture. It was found in two basic expressions:

Modalistic: the Father disguised himself and came in the mode of the Son;

Dynamic: The Father took over the body of a human..merely occupying the form of the boy from Nazareth.