

What is heresy?

Opening Discussion

Marcion

Heresy Series

How important is it for Christians to know and read the Old Testament?

Group Discussion

Marcion of Sinope

(85-160 CE)

- The son of a Christian bishop and a wealthy shipbuilder.
- Marcion was excommunicated from the Church in Rome in 144.
- Probably.
- Polycarp called him “the first-born of Satan.”

Disclaimer

- We don't have any Marcionite texts.
We only have anti-Marcionite texts.
- Why is this a problem?
- Do you trust most Democrats to fairly describe Republican ideals?
- Do you trust most Republicans to fairly describe Democratic ideals?

But why is this important??

- Marcion's ideas crop up all the time today, whether about the character of God, the value of the Old Testament, the books of the canon, or anything else.
- Understanding Marcionite heresy can help us better understand *orthodox* Christianity.

Marcion and the OT

- How can God not know something? (*Gen. 3:9*)
- Isn't anger petty? How can God be angry? (*1 Kings 11:9*)
- How can he be jealous? (*Exodus 34:14*)

- Marcion wanted to throw the entire Old Testament out.
- He was very anti-Jewish!

Marcion and God

- The God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament seem totally different.
- The OT God seems wrathful and vengeful, while...
- Christ was sent by the supreme God to reintroduce a religion of love and peace.
- Two Gods: Yahweh and Abba

How do you respond when
people complain about
the Old Testament and the
Old Testament God?

Group Discussion

Marcion's Canon (before the Canon)

- The Gospel (edited Luke?)
- Galatians
- 1-2 Corinthians
- Romans
- 1-2 Thessalonians
- Laodiceans
- Colossians
- Philippians
- Philemon

Miscellaneous

- Rejection of Allegory
- Rejection of the material world (*Created by Yahweh!*)
- Evangelism
- Christ's sufferings weren't real.
God can't suffer; God can't change.

Sympathy for the “Devil?”

- “I form light, and create darkness;
I make well-being and create
calamity;
I am the LORD, who does all these
things.”
-Isaiah 45:7

- “For the LORD, whose name is
Jealous, is a jealous God.”
-Exodus 34:14

- “God is light, and in Him is no
darkness at all.”
-1 John 1:5b

- “Love knows no jealousy.”
-1 Cor. 13:4

Orthodox Response

- If Christ didn't suffer, then Christianity falls.
- Marcion has no apostolic authority.
- God's creation is good.
- God is one.