

Colossians 14
Christological Heresies
June 2, 2021

1. Paul wrote Colossians against the backdrop of a group of false teachers who proclaimed a false Christology

- 1.1 There are “other Jesus” that are taught (2 Cor 11:3-4)
- 1.2 The “other Jesus’s” are sourced in Satan (2 Cor 11:13ff)
- 1.3 Christians should not be deceived by these cult systems (2 Cor 11:3)

2. Paul’s method of refuting the false Christology at Colossae is instructive

- 2.1 Rather than naming the cult, he teaches a true Christology in chapters 1-2
- 2.2 The false Christology is revealed by the negation of the true Christology
- 2.3 This method allows future Christological heresies to be refuted by Colossians

3. The true Christology teaches that Jesus is God and man in one person and that He can be known by all believers

- 3.1 Jesus is God (1:15, 19)
- 3.2 Jesus is true man with a human body (1:20)
- 3.3 Jesus as God and man can be known by all believers (2:2)

4. Christians should not be taken captive by another philosophy, yet they began several false religions that teach false Christologies

5. Christian Science (aka Eddyism) began in 1875 with 26 Christians who wanted to return to primitivism, a form of Christianity that emphasized healing

- 5.1 The core of their philosophy is that the spiritual world is the only reality and is entirely good, and thus the material world, with evil, sickness, and death, is an illusion
- 5.2 Christ is distinct from Jesus; Christ being infallible, Jesus as material manhood was an illusion
- 5.3 Paul refutes that Christ is distinct from Jesus in 1:3-4
- 5.4 Paul refutes that Christ was spiritual only and did not have a physical body that suffered in 1:18, 20, 22, and 24

6. Jehovah’s Witnesses (aka Russellism) began in the late 1800’s. Russell was raised Presbyterian, but became Congregationalist and was influenced heavily by Adventism, but started his own denomination.

- 6.1 The core of their philosophy is a strict monotheism. God is one with no diversity of persons within God.
- 6.2 Jesus is a creation of God.
- 6.3 Paul refutes that Jesus is a creation of God in 1:16, 1:15; 1:19; and 2:9

7. Mormonism (aka Latter Day Saints) began in 1829 in the period of the Second Great Awakening

7.1 The core of their philosophy is the Law of Eternal Progression “As man now, is God once was; As God now is, man may be.”

7.2 Christ was the offspring of a prior god and goddess and progressed his way to godhood and is one among many gods. Both Christ and the Father possessed physical bodies.

7.3 Paul refutes that the Father had a physical body in 1:15

7.4 Paul refutes that Christ is begotten and one of many gods in 1:16

8. Christians have been taken captive by philosophy and empty deceit.

8.1 A Christ who is less than God must be supplemented

8.2 Paul says Christ is all we need and we are complete in Him. Keep seeking the things above. Keep thinking the things above (Col 3:1-3)