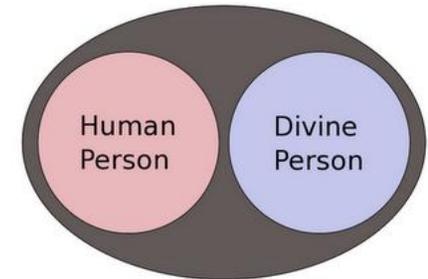


# Do You Have a Heresy Checklist? Here it is

Dr. Taylor Marshall



*Above, the Nestorian Heresy  
Depicted Graphically*

Perhaps the best way to learn the truth about the person and natures of our Lord Jesus Christ is to learn how the ancient heresies got it wrong. Here is a basic checklist to help you along the way:

## Heresies Checklist

**Docetism** teaches that Jesus only appeared to be human (from the Greek *dokeo* meaning "to seem"). On the contrary, the Catholic Church teaches that Christ is fully God and fully man and that He possessed a physical human body.

**Sabellianism** (aka modalism) falsely teaches that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one and the same person. Sabellianists were

called "Patripassians" (Greek for "the Father suffered") because they taught that God the Father suffered on the cross since the Father is the Son and vice versa. The Catholic Faith holds that there is one Divine Essence and three divine Persons. The TV preacher TD Jakes and Oneness Pentecostals are modern-day Sabellian heretics.

**Adoptionism** falsely teaches that Jesus had been a holy man who kept himself sinless. Adoptionists usually hold that Jesus achieved union with God at his baptism in the Jordan at which moment he was adopted by God the Father and given the title "Son of God." Adoptionism of a sort is held by modern-day liberals who believe that Jesus was only a "good teacher" and "holy man" who achieved spiritual union with God on earth. Modern Unitarians also teach adoptionism.

**Arianism** teaches that Jesus is not fully God - that Christ was merely the greatest creature of God the Father - that Jesus is the best *creature* who exists just one level above the angels. Arians teach that there was a time when the Son did not exist. On the contrary, the Catholic Church teaches that Christ co-eternal and consubstantial with the Father. God the Son is fully God and fully man. Modern-day Jehovah's Witnesses are officially Arian - the JW's believe that

Christ is the greatest *creature* of God the Father. We Catholics believe Christ is a divine person. Mary, as the human mother of Jesus, is the greatest *creature* of God.

**Nestorianism** (named after its founder, the heretic Archbishop of Constantinople Nestorius) teaches that Jesus is two "persons" - Jesus the human son of Mary *and* Jesus the divine Son of God. On the contrary, the Catholic Church teaches that Christ is one person with two natures: divine nature and human nature. If you've ever heard someone speak of "the human Jesus and the divine Jesus" then you're dealing with a Nestorian.

**Monophysitism** (*mono* = only & *physis* = nature) teaches that the divinity and humanity of Christ fused into only one single nature. They speak of the human nature being absorbed into the divine nature. The Catholic Church teaches that Christ has two distinct natures: divine nature and human nature.

**Monothelitism** (*mono* = only & *thelema* = will) teaches that Jesus has only one divine will. The Catholic Church teaches that Christ has two wills: a divine will and a human will belonging to His human soul. In Christ, the divine will and His human will were in perfect harmony. Some have argued that John Calvin

and Calvinists are practically Monothelites.

**Iconoclasm** teaches that images are idolatrous. On the contrary, the Catholic Church defends the use of Christian (not pagan) images since Christ became visible through the incarnation. Many modern Protestants subscribe to varying degrees to Iconoclasm. John Calvin was an iconoclast and Presbyterianism is historically iconoclastic.

The Catholic Church teaches that Jesus is:

- Second Person of the Trinity
- One divine person with two natures (divine nature & human nature)
- 100% divine (Son of God)
- 100% human (Son of Mary)
- Christ or Messiah (royal heir of David - King of the Jews)
- Rose from the dead and is seated at Father's right hand
- Shall come again to judge the living and the dead.

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