

Schism's, Ism's and Cults

Lesson 3 Ism's

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June 24, 2018

4. Definitions – b. Ism

b. Ism /0'ɪz(ə)m/ noun. Chiefly derog. L17. [ORIGIN -ism used generically. Cf. wasm.] A form of doctrine, theory, or practice having, or claiming to have, a distinctive character or relationship.

Suffix - **ism** (c) (adherence to) a system of theory, belief, or practice (religious, philosophical, political, scientific, etc.), as atheism, Buddhism, Darwinism, feminism, hedonism, Marxism, socialism, Wesleyism;

Ism's Throughout the Periods of Church History

1. Early Ism's in the Apostolic Age (33 – 100)
2. Post – Apostolic to Constantine (100 – 312)
3. Constantine to Charlemagne (312 – 800)
4. Charlemagne to Luther (800 – 1517)
5. Reformation – Specific groups (1517 – 1648)
6. Modern Denominationalism (1648 – 1880)
7. 19th Century Proliferation (1881 - Current)

Period 1.a. Epicurianism

1. Reference: **Ac. 17:18** Then certain philosophers of the **Epicureans**, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.
2. Essential Theory, Belief, or Practice: If It feels good – do it!
3. Principle Character: Epicurus (341-270 BC) Greek philosopher who held that the highest good is pleasure, sensuous enjoyment
4. Scriptural Refutation: **1 Cor. 6:18** Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. **20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Period 1.c. Stoicism

1. Reference: **Ac. 17:18** Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the **Stoicks**, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.
2. Essential Theory, Belief, or Practice: Repression of emotion, austerity = If you feel it – it must be bad!
3. Principle Character: Zeno (300BC) Propagated by Philo of Alexandria (25BC - 50AD) The Word, The Logos, The Idea of Ideas.
4. Scriptural Refutation: Jn. 1:1-3, Ac. 17:19-32

Nothing New

- **Ecc. 1:9** The thing that hath been, it *is that* which shall be; and that which is done *is that* which shall be done: and *there is no new thing* under the sun.
- **Ac. 17:21** (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)