

Schism's, Ism's and Cults

Lesson 4 Ism's

Jonathan Wheatley

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Ism's Throughout the Periods of Church History

1. Early Ism's in the Apostolic Age (33 – 100)

Period 1.c. Judaism

1. Reference: **Ac. 15:1** And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.
2. Essential Theory, Belief, or Practice: That one must still obey the Mosaic Law, that Salvation is not by Grace alone, and that circumcision is still necessary.
3. Principle Characters: “Certain men” Initially some Jewish converts that still held to the law, and Certain Pharisees (Ac.15:5) not suppressed by Peter, Gal.2:11, 14, when he had the opportunity to do so.
4. Scriptural Refutation: Gal.1:6-12, **Gal. 2:16** Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Period 1.d. Nicolaitanism

1. Reference: **Rev. 2:6** But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the **Nicolaitans**, which I also hate. **Rev. 2:14** But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. **15** So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the **Nicolaitans**, which thing I hate.
2. Essential Theory, Belief, or Practice: Similar to Baalism, Priesthood after that manner. Known for “Unrestrained Indulgence”. The group were located in (now) Western Turkey, but no longer exist. Today, we think of the doctrine of the Priesthood being above the Laity.
3. Principle Character: Some claim the Deacon Nicolas (Ac.6:5) and tie it also to Jezebel (Rev.2:20)
4. Scriptural Refutation: Rev. 2:14 I have a few things against thee... **Ac. 15:20** But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and *from* fornication, and *from* things strangled, and *from* blood.

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.)