

# Period 2 Reactionary & Reforming Groups

Lesson 6

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# 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)**

## Period 2.e. The Montanists

1. Reference: **Jn 16:12 & 13** I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. **16:13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
2. Essential Theory, Belief, or Practice: Stood against the emphasizing of knowledge at the expense of faith. Against laxity of discipline in the churches, and consequently of morals in the members. Against the merging of the churches in the world, against the growth of hierarchy, against the growing disbelief in contemporaneous special providences and revelations. Believed in the arbitrary division of sins into mortal and venial, virginity and widowhood were exalted.
3. Principle Characters: Montanism originated in Phrygia, about 135-160 by Montanus, with two women, Priscilla and Maximilla, who claimed to have been especially enlightened by the Paraclete; and to have been divinely commissioned to proclaim the setting up of the kingdom of Christ on earth, and to inveigh against the laxity and worldliness of the churches of the time. The most fundamental thing was Legalistic ascetism They were denied recognition by the Roman church, and branded schismatics.
4. Scriptural Refutation: Deut.18:20-22, Ac.2:7-11, 1 Cor. 14. 28, 40.

## Period 2.f. The Novatianists

1. Reference: There are Mortal and Venial sins (see Montanism)
2. Essential Theory, Belief, or Practice: Novatianism was a striving after ecclesiastical purity, perverted by the Montanistic legalism. Promoted the rigorous exclusion of all who have at any time committed one of the Mortal sins – especially negation of faith. Were in agreement with the principles of the faith, but the matter of church discipline is what branded them schismatic. Baptism had to be done by a properly qualified person.
3. Principle Characters: Novatian in North Africa, made Bishop and expanded into the regions of Asia minor, home of the Montanists. Wrote a very good treatise on the Trinity. Rebaptised those that came to them from churches they did not affiliate with.
4. Scriptural Refutation: See Montanism

## Period 2.g. The Donatists

1. Reference: See the Novatianists
2. Essential Theory, Belief, or Practice: The group arose after the Diocletian persecutions (AD303). Narrow legalism, tried to check the practice of relic worship. Absorbed the remaining Montanists and Novatianists in North Africa. They insisted on rigorous church discipline, rejected Lapsi membership, unworthy ministers. They protested against civil interference in matters of religion. Baptism necessary for salvation. Even Christ needed to be baptized to be cleansed of his human nature.
3. Principle Characters: Donatus, a Pastor in Carthage, North Africa, and Secundus of Tigisis who had taken a strong stand against Traditors.
4. Scriptural Refutation: 1 Cor.12:13, 27