

## The Ebionites

Based on "Judaizer" party  
Retention of Hebrew law  
Jesus was only a prophet

Therefore Jesus was not filled  
with the Spirit His whole life

The Spirit left Jesus at the cross,  
and there was no resurrection

**Affirms Jesus' humanity**  
**Denies Jesus' divinity**

Most probable response:

Require Gentiles to become Jews  
in order to become Christians

Philosophical problems:

Could Jesus be a savior if He's  
not divine?

How do you explain biblical texts  
in which Jesus claims a unique  
relationship with God and the  
Kingdom?

Modern versions:

Unitarian Universalist

## Orthodoxy

Based on  
Scripture

Uniquely  
filled with  
the Spirit

Real bodily  
resurrection

**Human and  
Divine**

Response:

Worship  
Jesus Christ  
as God - to  
worship  
Christ is to  
worship God

## The Docetics

Based on eastern "dualism"  
Separation of matter / spirit  
matter = evil, spirit = good

Therefore Christ only seemed  
human - actually only a spirit

Therefore the resurrection was  
only a mystical vision

**Affirms Jesus' divinity**  
**Denies Jesus' humanity**

Two possible responses:

Ascetic: self-denial

Antinomian: self - indulgence

## The Gnostics

Dualism/Docetism taken to the  
extreme:

If created matter is evil, then the  
creator must be evil, too  
The God of the Old Testament  
rejected as inferior / inept  
Jesus came to bring secret  
knowledge

Philosophical problems:

Could Jesus be the substitute for  
humanity if He's not human?

How do you reconcile biblical  
texts in which Jesus eats?

Modern versions:

New Age spirituality  
Christian Science / Dianetics