

Alex Worthington
History of Christianity
Gonzalez Ch. 1, 5-3-1
2/7/23

Questions:

- 1) What was the most immediate cultural and religious context for the early church?
- 2) What was the first major doctrinal issue that the church had to wrestle with (as seen in the book of Acts)?
- 3) What major doctrinal/philosophical idea did Justin Martyr put forth that helped bridge Christian thinking with pagan culture and philosophy?
- 4) What were the two major markers of Gnostic heresy?
- 5) What two sacraments were central to the life of the early church?

Answers:

- 1) *Second Temple Judaism/Palestinian Judaism.*
- 2) *Its' relationship to Judaism and the inclusion of Gentiles.*
- 3) *The doctrine of the Logos as the source of all truth.*
- 4) *A negative attitude toward the material world and salvation attained through special knowledge.*
- 5) *Communion and baptism.*

Terms:

Jewish Diaspora- the vast Jewish contingent outside of Palestine

Heresy- doctrines that contradict core, orthodox Christian doctrine

Marcionism- the heresy which developed by Marcion that claimed that the God of the old Testament is not the Father of Jesus and thus rejected the Old Testament

Summary:

The ancient church faced many challenges. It was born in the antagonistic religious environment of Second Temple Judaism as well as Roman syncretism, faced persecution first from Jewish religious leaders and then the Roman empire, and was faced with heresies that threatened the core of church belief. Through the faithful witness of martyrs and early apologist and the formation of a church creed, the church was able to preserve the teachings of Jesus and faith of the apostles.