

“What is Orthodoxy?”

I. The Biblical data

a. Two nouns in the New Testament

i. Heresy – in the most basic meaning, a “sect”

Acts 5:17 – the Sadducees

Acts 15:5 (cf. 26:5) – the Pharisees

Acts 28:22 (cf. I Cor 11:18-19) – the Church

Gal 5:20 – a negative connotation

II Pet 2:1 – denial of the Lord (qualified – “damnable”)

ii. Heretic (only one occurrence)

Titus 3:9-11 – to be marked and avoided

II. Usage by the Church

The ecumenical creeds as a standard.

Departure from the *sine qua non* of the Faith (Tit 1:9-11)

Example: Arius

Power politics – the Reformation & Counter Reformation

Reserving “heretic” for egregious departures from the core faith

Example: The Synod of Dort.

III. Being careful in the present day

Striving for truth, not striving for artificial unanimity

Unity will come in God’s time

Branding others rather than debating with them

Some modern departures are harmful to the Church

The solution is striving to understand sound teaching

Eph 4:11-16