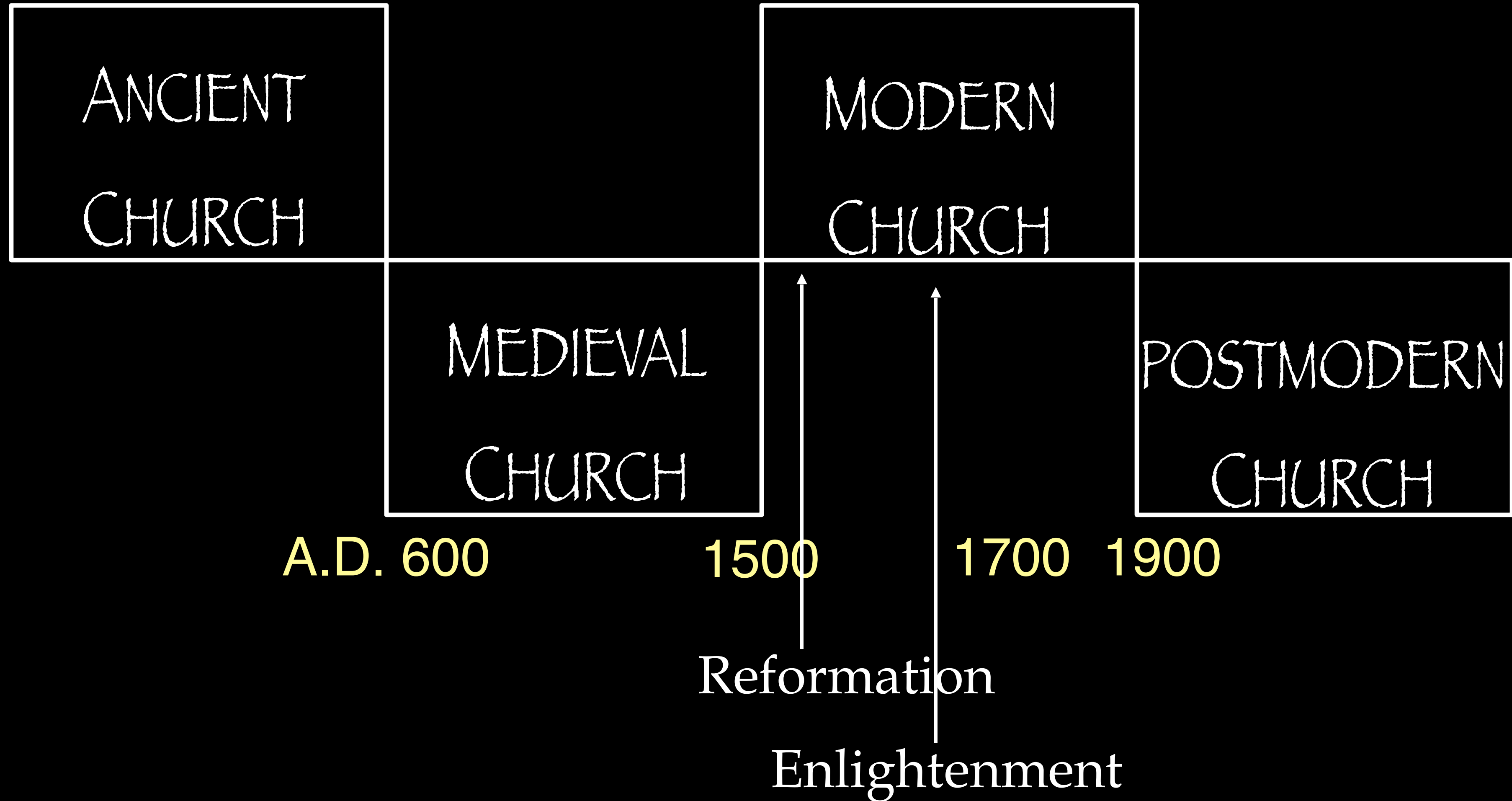


# **Lesson 6**

## **Postmodernity** **The Doctrine of God, Part 1** **The Early Church**

# DIVISIONS OF CHURCH HISTORY



# THE MODERN CHURCH

## A.D. 1600-1900



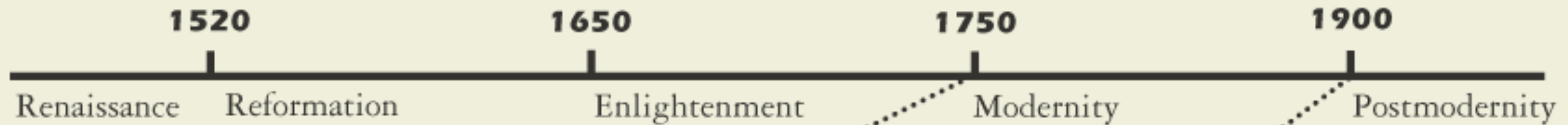
# **Analysis of Religious Liberal Thought**

**“From the objective-transcendent personal God of Judeo-Christian theology, neo-Protestant interpreters have moved in recent generations to the nonobjective transcendent personal God (Barth and Brunner), to the nonobjective-transcendent, impersonal, unconditioned (Tillich), to the nonobjective-mythological-transcendent personal God (Bultmann), to nonobjective-nontranscendent religion.”**

**Carl F. H. Henry**

*Frontiers in Modern Theology*

# The Roots of Modernity and Postmodernity



Locus of Reality	Rationality	Non-Rationality (the Intuitive)
Authority	Reason	Self
Worldview	Progressive Positivistic	Privitism / Individualism
Features	Order / Balance / Symmetry	Randomness / Disorder (despair / anxiety / relativity)



# Thought in America

**UNITARIANISM**  
1805–80

**MODERNISM**  
New Theology  
1880–1930

**NEO-  
LIBERALISM**  
1930–60

**PROCESS  
THEOLOGIES**  
1960–

**Philosophic Orientation**

**Realism**

**Idealism**

**Nature of Reality**

**Objective  
Being**

**Evolutionary  
Becoming**

**Nature of Truth**

**Static/  
Moral**

**Emergent**

# Shapers of Religious Liberal Thought

**Barth  
Brunner  
1930**

**Bultmann  
1960**

**Classic  
Liberalism**

**Neo-  
Liberalism**

**Process  
Theologies**

**Rationalism**

**Subjectivism**

**Secularism**

# Postmodernism and Authority



**Reason**

**20th  
Century**

**Postmodernism**



**The Private Self**

**R  
e  
j  
e  
c  
t  
s**



**Reason  
Revelation  
Tradition**



# Postmodernity and the “Self”

**“The self-esteem theory predicts that only those who feel good about themselves will do well—which is supposedly why all students need self-esteem—but in fact feeling good about yourself may simply make you over-confident, narcissistic, and unable to work hard....**

**“In this world, we will perpetually be somewhat sick, mentally and physically. We do not need to be psychologically sound to know and love Christ—for which we should be profoundly grateful.”**

**Paul Vitz, “Leaving the Psychology Behind”**

**in** No God But God

**“Within America, the past generation has witnessed a titanic double shift: from the more traditional emphasis on individualism, with its accompanying concern with majority rule, to the more recent emphasis on tribalism, with its accompanying concern with minority rights.”**

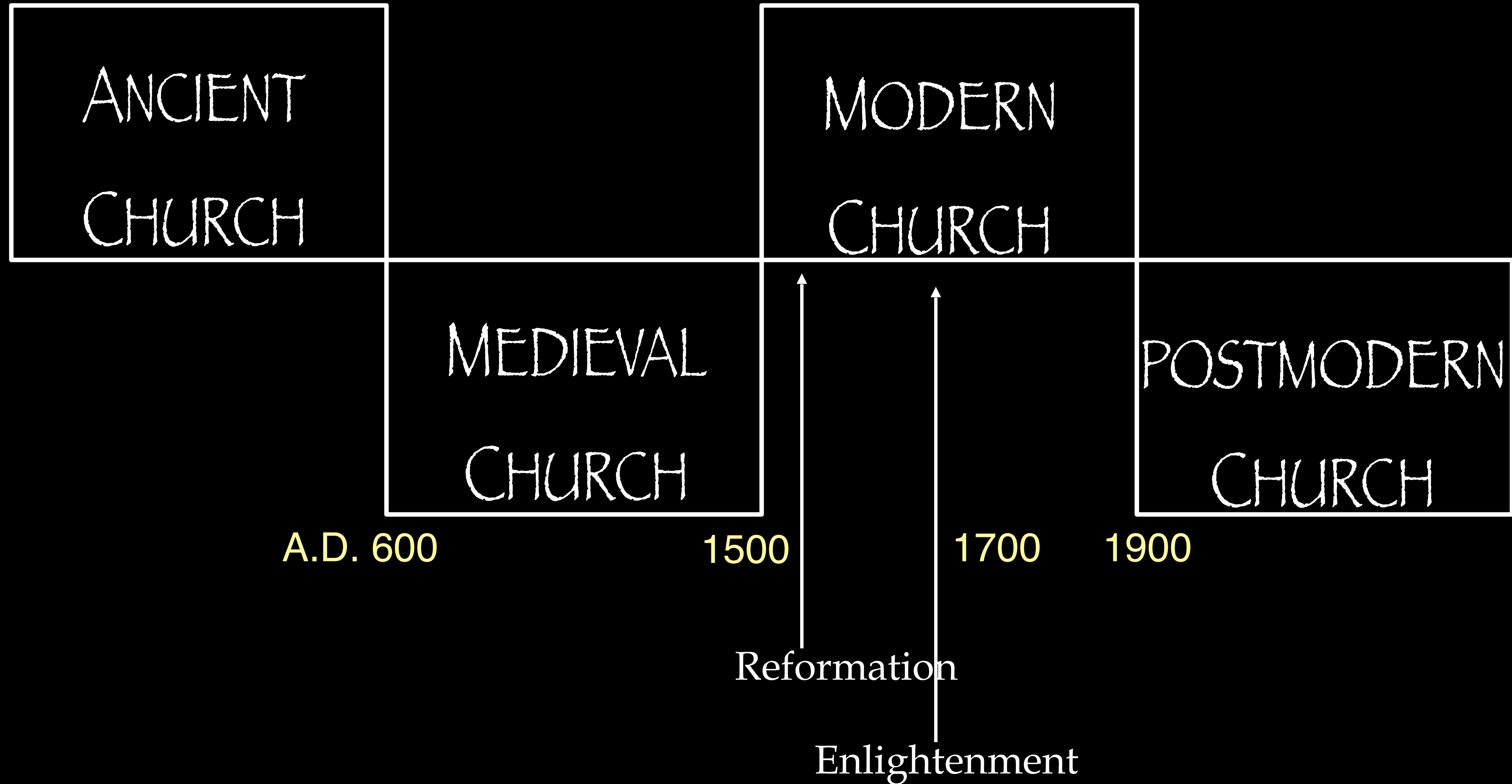
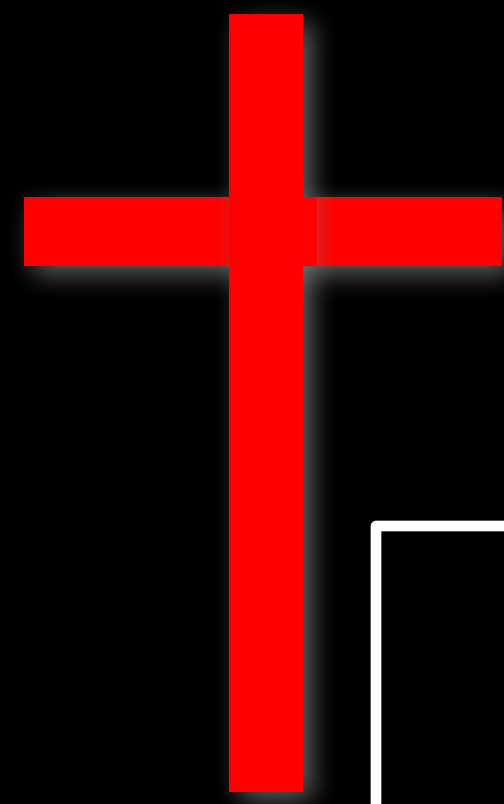
**Os Guinness, “More Victimized Than Thou”**

**in** No God But God

# Modern and Postmodern Views of Truth

<b>Modern</b>	<b>Postmodern</b>
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Subjective</b>
<b>Scientific</b>	<b>Mystic</b>
<b>Empirical</b>	<b>Experiential</b>
<b>Individual</b>	<b>Communitarian</b>

# DIVISIONS OF CHURCH HISTORY



**What was Jesus BEFORE He came?**

**What was Jesus WHEN He came?**



**What was Jesus BEFORE He came?**

**If Jesus was God, do we have more than one God?**

**If Jesus was eternal, then He must be divine**

**What was Jesus WHEN He came?**

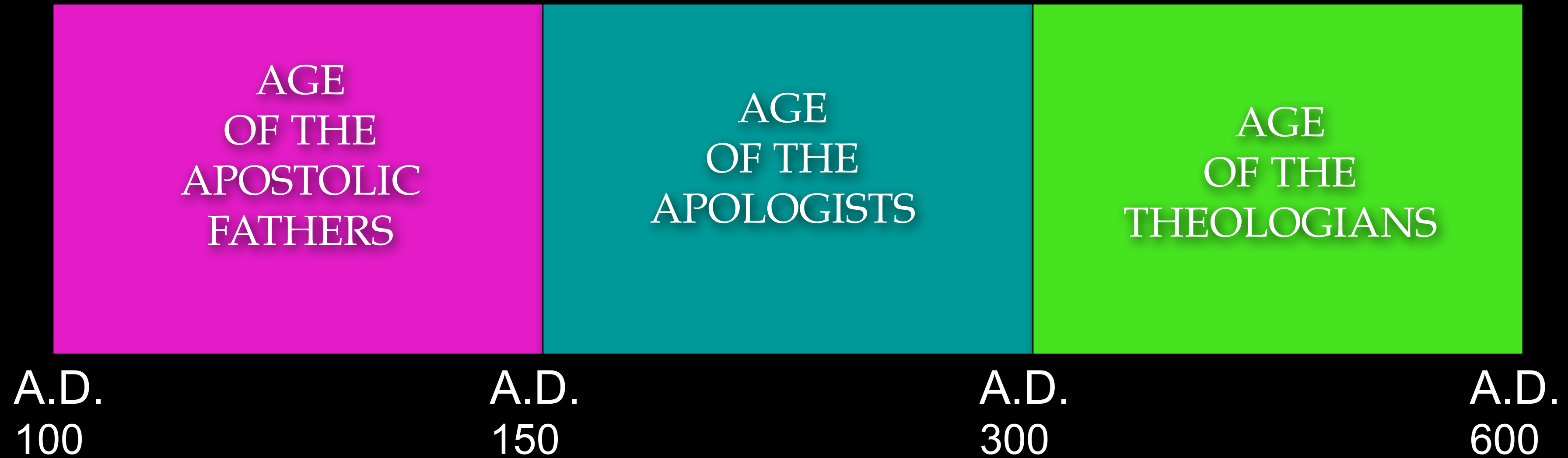
**Was he human? In what sense?**

**Was he half human half god? Did he only appear to be human?**



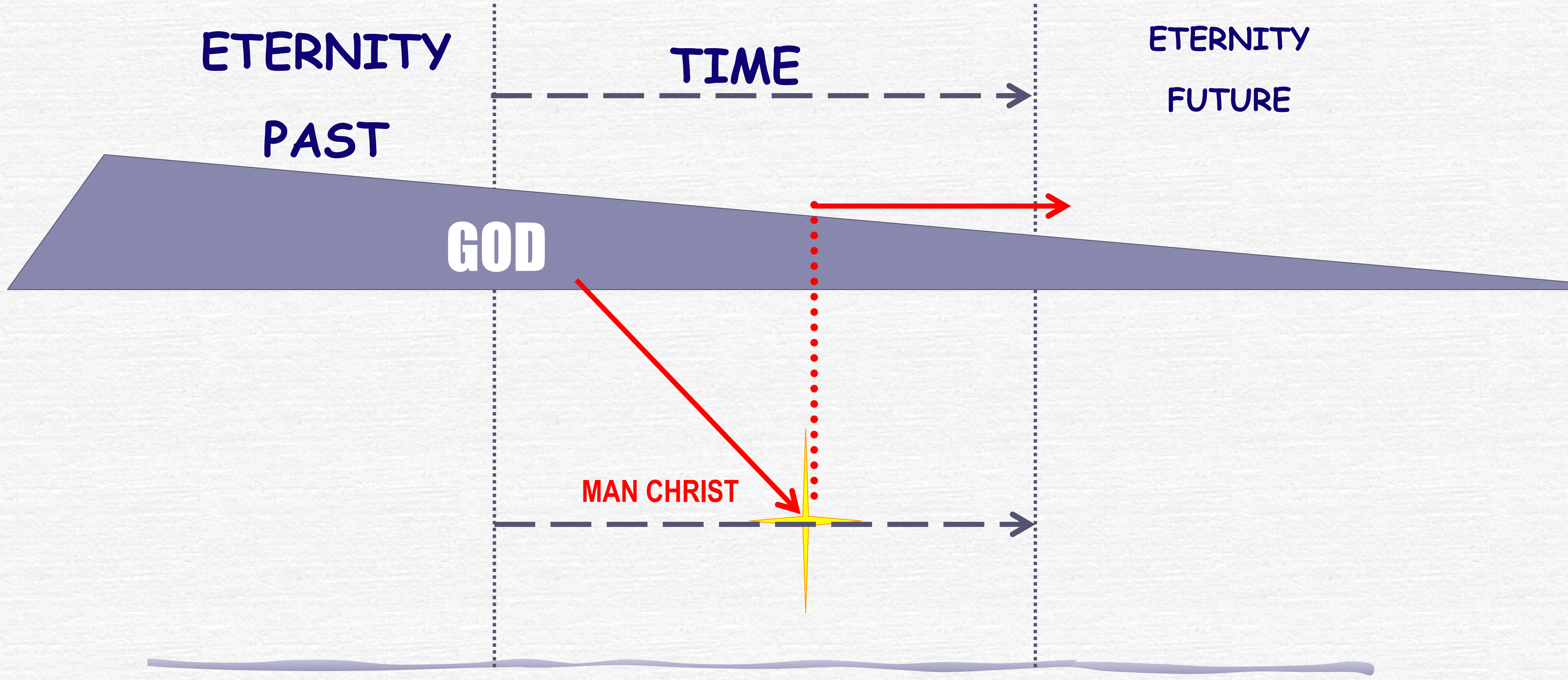
# THE ANCIENT CHURCH

A.D. 100-600



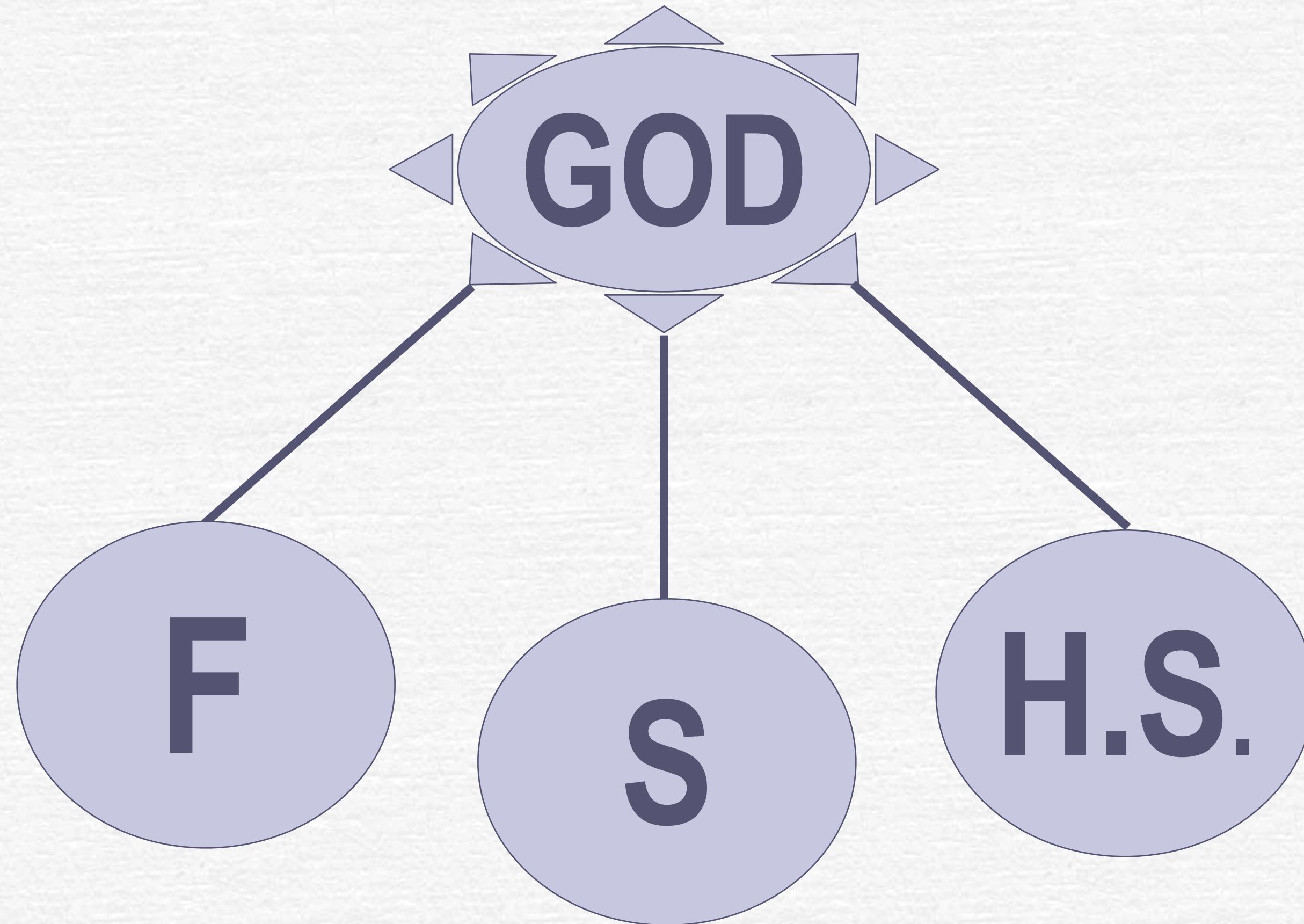
# ADOPTIONISM (Dynamic Monarchianism):

The Son is subordinate to the Father in Essence





# **Modalism: The Son is NOT Distinct from the Father**





# **Adoptionism & Modalism**

## **Compared**

### **ADOPTIONISM**

**(Dynamic Monarchianism)**

- ☞ Oneness of God**
- ☞ Denies the Deity of Christ**
- ☞ Affirms Humanity of Christ**
- ☞ H.S. = a power**

### **MODALISM**

**(Modalistic Monarchianism,  
Sabellianism, Patripassionism)**

- ☞ Oneness of God**
  - ☞ Affirms Deity of Christ**
  - ☞ Denies Humanity of Christ**
  - ☞ H.S. = a mode of God's  
existence**
-