



THE NOTION OF HERESY IN THE PATRISTIC TIMES:

A HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL APPROACH

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Christianity is sometimes better known as opposition to heresy than as the proclamation of a simple positive message without even the idea of opposition or contradiction. The patristic period was no exception, particularly with all its anti-heretical treatises. But what is exactly behind this word and this concept of “heresy”, especially in the first centuries of the Church? We will first study the various meanings given to “heresy” (etymological, philosophical, biblical, etc.), then we will focus on its theological sense. This will be followed by a development on the historical meaning of “heresy”. Finally we will operate a synthesis of the theological and historical approaches. Is there a possible unified definition of heresy for both theologians and historians?

Cyril Pasquier is a French theologian living in Budapest. In 2018, he obtained a doctorate from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. His thesis focuses on the thousand-year reign and was published in 2021 (*Approches du millénium – Et si Irénée de Lyon avait raison?* Münster: Aschendorff). He is currently working on marriage for habilitation and on environmental issues in relation to the encyclical *Laudato si*.

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KRE HTK.

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