

Marcion opposed the unity of the God of love he found through Paul in Jesus with the sometimes hateful God of the Hebrews. Similarly the scriptures of the Old Testament were rejected and the writings revered by the early Church narrowed down to some of Paul's letters and compatible sections of Luke. In positing a God of love divorced from blame for the sufferings of the world he is able to classify creation as evil and therefore consonant with his experience of the world.

This allows for a rational explanation of God and evil. It is difficult to praise a deity that you hold responsible for suffering and an evil creator demiurge is a neat sidestep for those who like their world view's to make sense. Tertullian on the other hand would prefer to believe because it is absurd.

There is justification for his harsh editing of sacred writing in the internal limitations in the documents themselves once they begin to be interpreted literally rather than in their historical contexts and the deficiencies of the local tribal God Yahweh. An understandable inability to see the Old Testament scriptures as part of the ongoing growth in the consciousness of what God can mean leaves Marcion with the honest alternative of simply discarding them.

Marcion took his life denying views to the extreme of encouraging celibacy. Similarly unrealistic views have persisted within the sections of the Church and are worthy of the same critique as Marcion. Marcion makes Christianity neat by jettisoning the Jewish baggage, but the great losses entailed leave a world view depressingly bland and with little hope.