

1 **Early Church Leaders**

2 **Justin Martyr (c.100–c.165)**

- Justin followed some of the most popular Greek and Roman philosophies before converting to Christianity around 130.
 - Justin continued to appreciate much of this philosophy, especially Platonism.
 - Justin used the language and concepts of philosophy to defend Christianity and attack paganism and heresy.
- Justin was martyred in Rome c.150.

3 **Irenaeus (c.130–c.202)**

- Irenaeus was a bishop in Gaul.
- Irenaeus taught that salvation is a restoration of God's plan for humanity.
 - Besides being God, Christ was a perfect man just as Adam was created as a perfect man.
 - Through faith in Christ, man can be restored to this perfection.
- Irenaeus taught against heresy.

4 **Tertullian (c.160–c.225)**

- Raised in Carthage, North Africa
- Son of a Roman centurion
- Trained as a lawyer and converted to Christianity c.198

5 **Teachings of Tertullian**

- Taught against Judaism, paganism, and heresy
- Defended Christians against persecution and rumors
- Critical of Greek philosophy and its influence on Christians
 - "What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?"
- Concerned with practical matters
 - Strict church discipline
 - High moral standards
- Placed high value on tradition and authority

6 **Origen (185–254)**

- A popular Greek-educated teacher from Alexandria
- Taught all day and studied the Bible all night
- Died as a result of torture during persecution

7 **Teachings of Origen**

- Highly influenced by Plato
- Taught that the Bible has both a literal meaning and an allegorical meaning
- Devised a complex theory of the history of the universe

- Opposed heresy, but was himself declared a heretic by some