Callistus

ecclesiasticalresearche

The doctrine of Callistus is said to be a compound of elements, taken half from that of Noëtus and Sabellius, half from that of Theodotus.

But even from the partial and highly-coloured account of Hippolytus, one cannot recognise any Theodotian elements in the teaching of Callistus. According to the statement of our informer, Theodotus of Byzantium taught that Jesus was merely a man of extraordinary piety, on whom the Pneuma, named Christ, descended at his baptism in the Jordan, but without His thereby becoming God.

According to Hippolytus' account, Callistus taught the opposite of all this: with him God the Logos became man in the Virgin's womb; a mere man Jesus never at any moment existed; and God did not descend upon a full-grown man, but took, man's nature and made it Divine by uniting it with Himself.

(Hippolytus and Callistus; or, The Church of Rome... by John J. Ing. Von Döllinger, Translated by Alfred Plummer, Edinburgh, T. & T. Clark, 1876, 218, Paragraph Structure Modified)