

# Roots of European Civilisations

**Christianity**

# Early Christians





# Early Christians

- Jesus Christ 8–2 B.C. till 29–36 A.D
- Apostles Peter and Paul has brought new religion to Rome
- Apostle Paul – opened Christianity to non - Jews
- Christians has not participated in official cult of Roman gods – hence the were considered immoral and prosecuted



# Constantine and Theodosius

- 313 – Christianity made legal in roman empire (at fact it has started from 306 A.D)
- 391 – Theodosius declares Christianity (as proclaimed in Nicaea) only legal religion in Rome (apart form Judaism).





# Dioceses of Roman Empire



# Ecumenical Councils

- First Council of Nicaea (325)
- First Council of Constantinople (381)
- Council of Ephesus (431)
- Second Council of Ephesus – Robber Synod (449)
- Council of Chalcedon (451)
- Second Council of Constantinople (553)
- Third Council of Constantinople (680 – 681)
- Second Council of Nicaea (787)

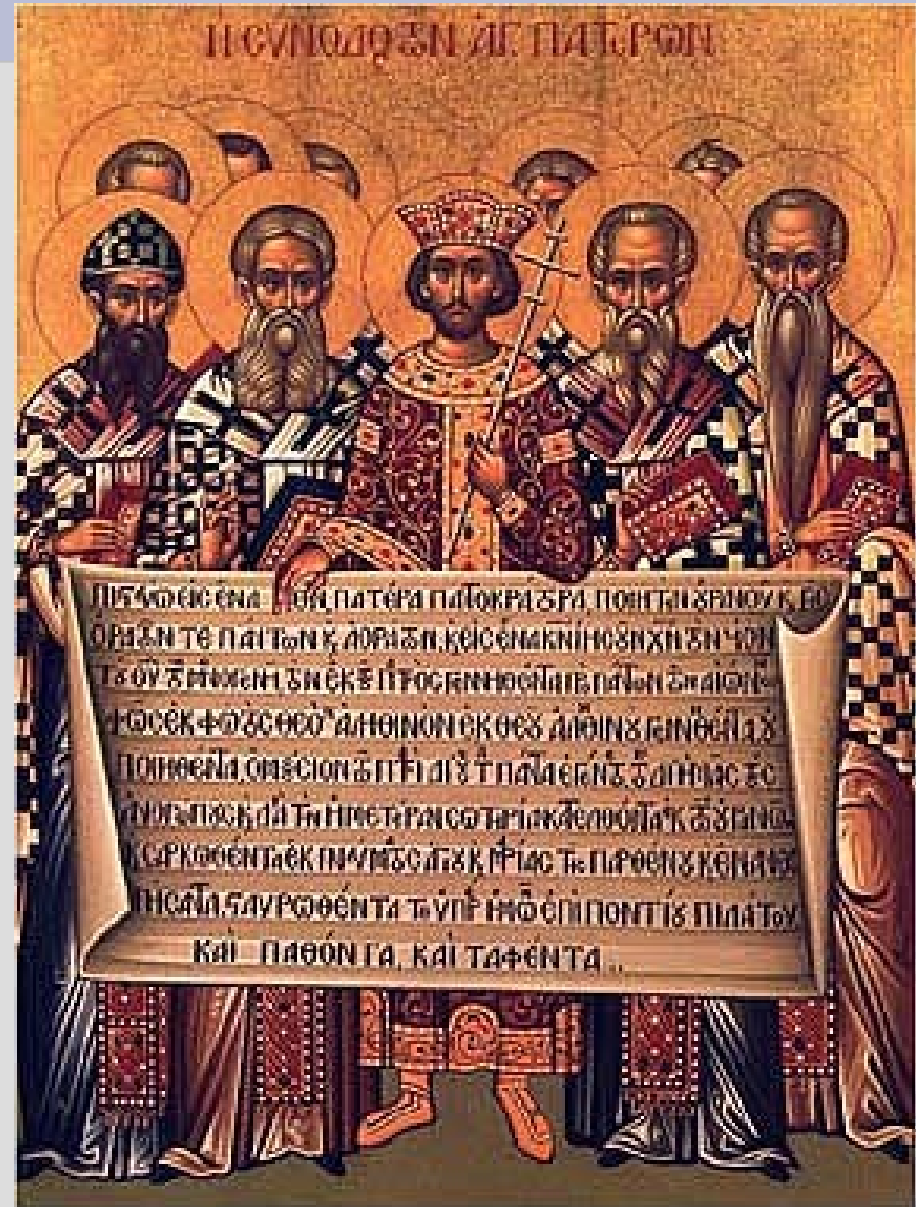
# First Council of Nicaea and First Council of Constantinople

**First Council of Nicaea was convened by Emperor Constantine in order to resolve certain controversies – mainly Arianism:**

- Condemned Arianism,
- Proclaimed date of Easter,
- Uniformed Christian doctrine - creed (credo)
- Declared Son and Father as being homoousian – of the same substance

**First Council of Constantinople:**

- Again condemned Arianism
- Modified Nicene Creed thus creating The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed which is a cornerstone of Christian Faith today
- Confirmed belief in Holy Spirit



# First Council of Nicaea and First Council of Constantinople

- Two First councils were foremost concerned with Arian heresy:
  - Arius considered Jesus as lower than God – he was created, thus there was time when he was not there, and he was not of the same substance.
  - Arius opponents (st. Alexander of Alexandria) claimed that Father and Son were coeternal and of the same substance



St. Gregory of Nyssa



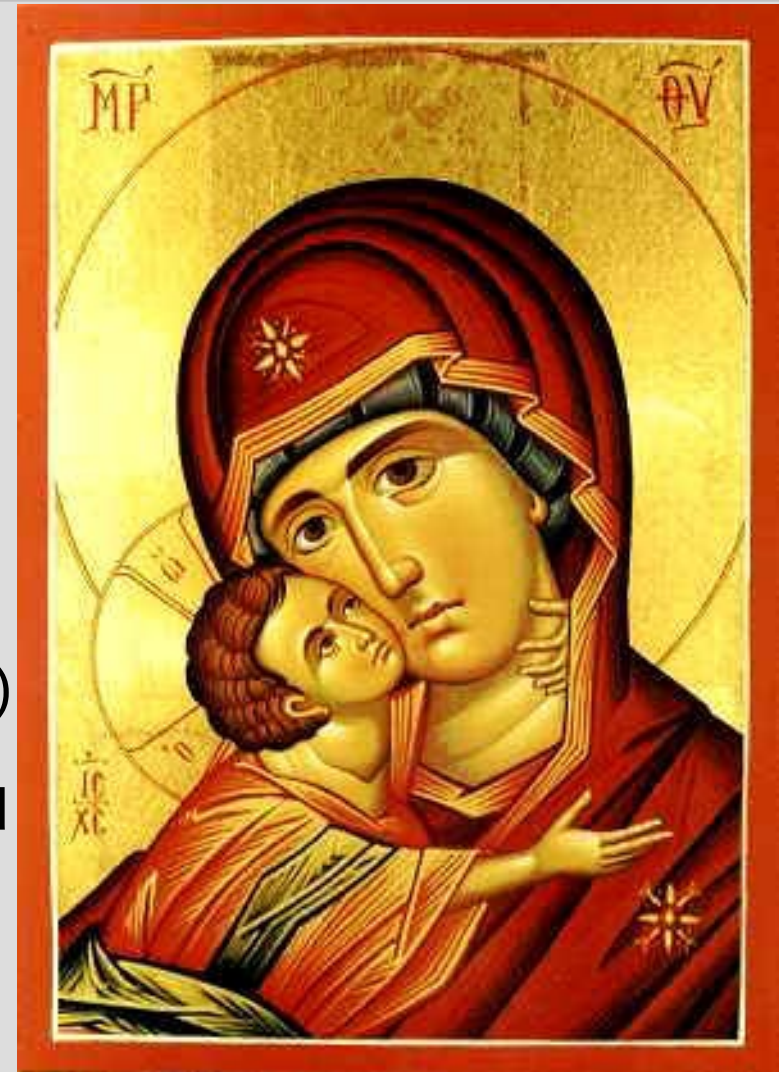
# The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds (æons), Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; he was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; from thence he shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father *and Son*, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. In one holy catholic and apostolic Church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Marked red “and Son” („Filioque”) were added in the West later and are not considered proper by orthodox Church

# Council of Ephesus

- Council of Ephesus:
  - Repudiated Nestorianism,
  - proclaimed the Virgin Mary as the Theotokos ("God-bearer"),
  - repudiated Pelagianism,
  - Confirmed The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed
- Nestorius claimed that Christ exists as two persons, the man Jesus and the divine Son of God, or Logos, rather than as two natures (True God and True Man) of one divine person
- Pelagius claimed that that original sin did not taint human nature



# Second Council of Ephesus – Robber Synod 449

- Convoled by initiative of Patriarch Dioscorus of Alexandria
- Theodosius II used force to backe Bishop of Alexandria.
- Council accepted teachings of Eutyches – monophysitism (one nature),
- This „Robber Council” is rejected as Ecumenical by both Catholic and Orthodox Churches. It is accepted by Coptic, Ethiopian, Syriac and Armenian Churches





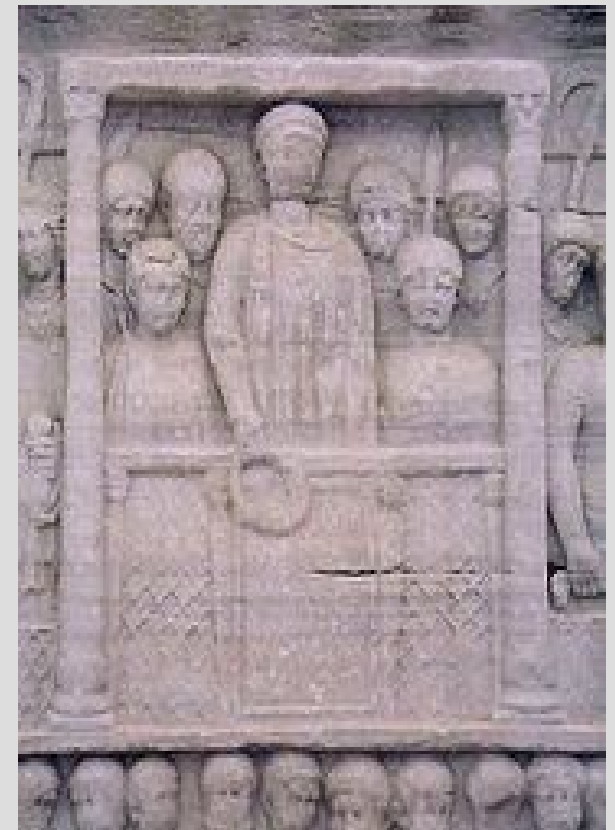
# Council of Chalcedon

- Council convoked by Emperor Marcian and supported by Pope Leo I:
  - Repudiated Monophysitism ,
  - Declared Hypostatic union of Godly and human natures in Christ
  - Declared Constantinople and Jerusalem bishops - Patriarchs



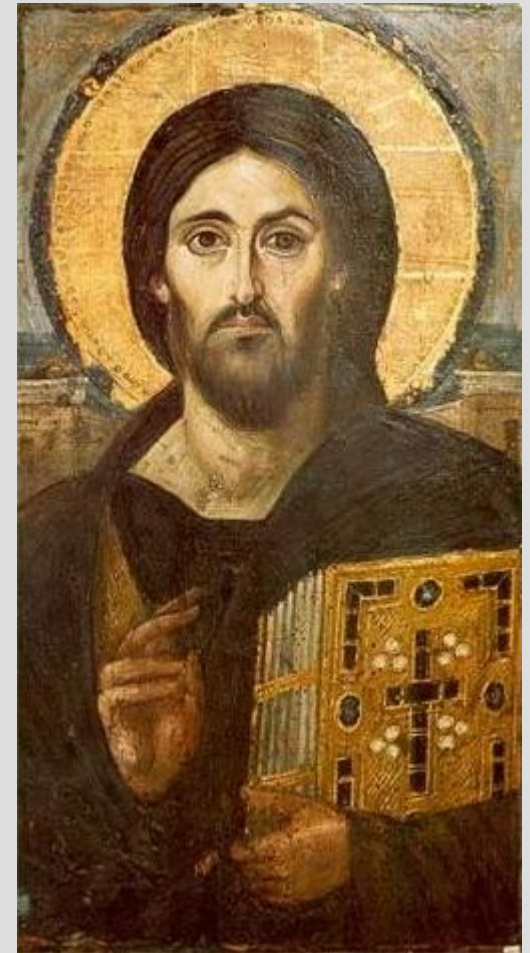
# Second and Third Council of Constantinople

- Second Council of Constantinople was convoked by Emperor Justinian in order to repudiate Origenism and bring reconciliation with Monophysitism (this was unsuccessful)
- Third Council of Constantinople repudiated some heresies (monothelitism and monoenergism)



# Second Council of Nicaea 787 A.D.

- Restored veneration of Icons
- Repudiated iconoclasm (image-breaking) – great controversy of VIII and IX c. Byzantium.





# Early Christian temples – St. Maria Maggiore



# Early Christian temples – St. Sabina, St. Maria in Cosmedin





# Thank you for attention

