

## BARRIERS & BRIDGES WEEK 2

### “The Orthodox Church & The Roman Catholic Church”

#### REVIEW OF LAST WEEK : THE AGE OF CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY : AD 70 – 312

- After the age of the Apostles the church continued to spread all over the Middle East, Persia, Europe, & northern Africa.
- Catholic means universal. This term was used many years before the Roman Catholic Church formed.

#### ROME MERGES CHURCH & STATE

- In 313 AD Emperor Constantine professes Christianity but also keeps his pagan title Ponifex Maximuis- supreme high priest of the state religious cult of the Roman Empire
- Constantine favors Christianity openly:
  - tax breaks
  - abolished crucifixion & gladiator battles as criminal punishments
  - made Sunday a public holiday
  - government funded church buildings
- Rome is the capital of Christianity, but with a price...Constantine moves capital to more centralized Constantinople
- Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, exiled
- Emperor Theodosius I- rewards Christians & penalizes non-Christians

#### EARLY CHURCH FATHERS AGREE ON ORTHODOXY

- Nicene Creed in 325 hammers out the doctrine of the Trinity
- Several large meetings of Bishops compile what we now know as the New Testament & forbade use of books that did not make the cut [The Synod of Laodicea (363), The Council of Hippo, 393, Synod of Carthage in 397, The Council of Carthage in 419]
- How was the canon decided?
  - apostolic authority
  - orthodox doctrine
  - broad based acceptance

#### THE GREAT SCHISM : AD 1054

- In 1054 the Bishops of the two capitals of the Roman Empire mutually excommunicated each other along with all of their followers creating a formal break in Christianity.
- The West – Constantinople & The Orthodox Church
- The East- Rome & the Holy Roman Catholic Church

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#### BOOKS & ARTICLES REFERENCED:

“Handbook of Denominations in the United States, 14th Edition” by Roger E. Olson (Mead, Hill, Atwood)

“Church History in Plain Language” book by Bruce L. Shelley

“The Apostolic Foundation of the Church” article at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-apostolic-foundation-of-the-church>

“Foxy's Book of Martyrs” book by John Foxy

“Voice of the Martyrs” is an organization dedicated to telling stories of martyrs & praying for current hardships of people spreading the Gospel around the world <https://www.persecution.com>

“Know the Creeds And Councils” book by Justin S. Holcomb

“Know the Heretics” book by Justin S. Holcomb

“The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict” book by Josh McDowell

Demetrios J. Constantelos, Understanding the Greek Orthodox Church (New York: Seabury Press, 1982).

Eileen W. Lindner, ed., Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches 2000 (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000), pp. 339-349.

John Meyendorff, Catholicity and the Church (Crestwood, N.Y.: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1983), p. 100.

Archbishop Michael, “Orthodox Theology,” The Greek Theological Review 3 (Summer 1957): p. 13.  
Paul Negrut, “Orthodox Soteriology: Theosis,” Churchman 109 (1995): p. 166.

Timothy Ware, The Orthodox Church (Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1964).

Quotes were taken from Catechism of the Catholic Church. Liguori, Mo.: Liguori Publications, 1994.