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SELECTED CHRONOLOGY OF THE CHURCH 1: FROM CHRIST TO CONSTANTINE

Know basic facts, centuries, and sequence of all items. Know exact dates of bolded items. (c. = approximate)

- 30 c. AD** **Death and Resurrection of Jesus followed by Pentecost, the “birthday” of the Church**
- 50 Earliest document of the New Testament (1 Thessalonians) written
- 64 First great persecution of the Christians under the emperor Nero begins; Peter & Paul are martyred; approximate date 1st gospel (Mark or Matthew) written
- 70** **Destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple by Roman Armies**
- 95 c. Gospel of John completed; Clement's letter to the Corinthians written
- 100 c. Last books of NT (probably 2 Peter, 1 John) written. Patristic period begins
- 110** c. **Letters & Martyrdom of Ignatius of Antioch**
- 144 Marcion is excommunicated by the Church of Rome
- 151 c. 1st Apology of Justin written. Justin later martyred ca. 165
- 155 Martyrdom of Polycarp; approximate beginning of Montanism
- 185** c. **Irenaeus writes Against Heresies; Clement takes over the catechetical school at Alexandria to be followed 20 years later by Origen**
- 200 c. Sabellius teaches that Father & Son are the same person (modalism)
- 206 Tertullian, the first theologian to write in Latin, becomes a Montanist
- 250 Origen suffers imprisonment & torture in the persecution of Decius
- 292 Emperor Diocletian divides Roman Empire into East and West.
- 303 Great persecution of Diocletian begins lasting in the West till 306 and in the east till 313.
- 313** **Constantine legalizes Christianity & all religions in the Edict of Milan**

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SELECTED CHRONOLOGY OF THE CHURCH 2: FROM CONSTANTINE TO 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Know basic facts, centuries, and sequence of all items. Know exact dates of bolded items.

- 313** Constantine legalizes Christianity & all religions in the Edict of Milan
- 325** First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea condemns Arius, proclaims dogma of Christ's divinity, expands second stanza of Creed. After the Council, Athanasius, Patriarch of Alexandria, becomes its great champion.
- 381 1st (Ecum) Council of Constantinople condemns Apollinaris. Relying on the Cappadocians, expands 3rd stanza of creed defining the divinity of the Holy Spirit. It thus completes what we call the Nicene Creed.
- 382 First official list of biblical canon provided by Pope Damasus; local council of Carthage publishes essentially the same list in 397
- 387 Baptism of Augustine by Ambrose, bishop of Milan
- 430 Death of Augustine, Bishop of Hippo
- 431 Ecum. Council of Ephesus, led by St. Cyril of Alexandria, defines Christ as incarnate Word of God and proclaims Mary Theotokos (God-bearer)
- 449 "Robber Council" of Ephesus approves one nature doctrine of Eutyches
- 451** Ecum. Council of Chalcedon, following the lead of Pope St. Leo, defines Christ as having both a divine and a human nature in one person
- 476 Last Western Roman Emperor deposed & the Middle Ages begins in the West; Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine) lasts till 1453!
- 529 (local) 2nd Council of Orange condemned Semi-Pelagianism; St. Benedict establishes his monastery at Monte Cassino, Italy
- 589 Filioque begins to be inserted into Nicene Creed throughout Spain following 1st (local) Council of Toledo. It was not used by Rome till early 11th Cent.
- 622 Islam begins with Mohammed's Hegira (flight) from Mecca
- 680 3rd Ecum. Council of Constantinople affirms that Jesus had a truly human will as well as a truly divine will against the Monothelites
- 726 Byzantine Emperor launches iconoclasm beginning 120 year controversy
- 756 Central Italy given to Pope by Pepin, king of the Franks ("the Donation of Pepin"). Pope remains political ruler of these papal states till 1870.
- 787 2nd Ecum Council of Nicaea vindicates the veneration of images

SELECTED CHRONOLOGY OF THE CHURCH 3: THE MIDDLE AGES

Know basic facts, centuries, and sequence of all items. Know exact dates of bolded items.

- 867 Photius, patriarch of Constantinople, denounces Latin addition of the filioque to the creed; temporary Photian Schism begins
- 1054 Mutual Excommunications between Patriarch of Constantinople and Pope leads to Great Schism between Catholic (West) & Orthodox (East). Subsequent councils deemed “ecumenical” by Catholics have no Eastern Orthodox participants**
- 1109 Death of St. Anselm, monk, theologian, and Archbishop of Canterbury
- 1140 St. Bernard, Cistercian abbot of Clairvaux, debates Abelard
- 1160 Death of Peter Lombard, compiler of the Four Books of Sentences, the standard theology textbook until the mid 16th century
- 1209 Pope Innocent III approves Francis of Assisi's rule for his Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans), the 1st mendicant order. Dominican rule approved 7 years later.
- 1215 4th (ecum) Lateran Council canonizes the term "transubstantiation" and mandates annual reception of penance and Eucharist
- 1274 2nd (Ecum) Council of Lyons accomplishes temporary reunion of separated Eastern Churches with Rome which was later repudiated by Orthodox; deaths of Aquinas & Bonaventure
- 1277 Local condemnation of some of Aquinas's ideas at Paris and Oxford
- 1308 Beginning of “Babylonian Captivity” of the Papacy in Avignon, France
- 1349 Death of William of Ockham, nominalist theologian
- 1378 Beginning of the “Great Western Schism” (2 and 3 simultaneous claimants to the Papal Office)
- 1417 Ecum. Council of Constance ends Western Schism, condemns Wyclif and Hus
- 1439 Ecum. Council of Florence formulates decrees of union with separated Eastern churches that were later repudiated by the Orthodox East; also repudiates conciliarism by affirming papal supremacy

SELECTED CHRONOLOGY OF THE CHURCH 4: REFORMATION TO THE 20TH CENTURY

Know centuries & basic facts of all items; know exact dates of bolded items

- 1454 Gutenberg invents the printing press
- 1517 5th (ecum.) Lateran Council fails to act decisively against abuses.
Martin Luther posts his 95 theses against the sale of indulgences
sparking reformation in Germany
- 1520 Martin Luther, excommunicated by Pope Leo X, refuses to recant**
- 1522 Ulrich Zwingli initiates the stream of Protestantism in Zurich,
Switzerland that came to be called the “Reformed” stream (as
distinguished from the Lutheran one)
- 1531 The Augsburg Confession, by Philip Melanchthon, systematizer of
Lutheran theology
- 1540 St. Ignatius of Loyola established the Society of Jesus (Jesuits)
- 1541 John Calvin returns to Geneva to assume long-term supervision of
the city
- 1545 Beginning of the Ecumenical Council of Trent
- 1546 Death of Martin Luther
- 1559 Final edition of Calvin's greatest literary work, the Institutes of the
Christian Religion
- 1563 End of the Ecumenical Council of Trent, the official Catholic
response to the Protestant Reformation
- 1571 39 Articles of Religion, the most important doctrinal document of
Anglicanism
- 1580 Lutheran Orthodoxy defined by the Formula of Concord
- 1610 J. Arminius' followers write the Remonstrance, teaching a
Reformed Protestantism without double predestination
- 1619 The Synod of Dort condemns Arminians, defines Calvinist
Orthodoxy

SELECTED CHRONOLOGY OF THE CHURCH 5: REFORMATION TO THE 20TH CENTURY

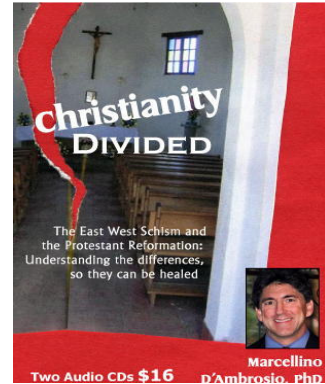
- 1640 Cornelius Jansen's book Augustinus is published sparking the Jansenist movement
- 1670 Blaise Pascal's Pensées are published posthumously
- 1675 Philip Jacob Spener's book Desideria popularizes the Pietist movement
- 1695 Deism gets a boost from John Locke's The Reasonableness of Christianity
- 1723 The "Old Catholic" schism begins in Holland fomented by the Jansenist movement
- 1738 Conversion of Anglican pastor John Wesley results in Methodist movement
- 1799 F. Schleiermacher's begins propagating a reinterpreted, "romantic" Christianity
- 1835 David F. Strauss's skeptical Life of Jesus popularizes "radical" biblical criticism
- 1841 Ludwig Feuerbach's Essence of Christianity launches modern atheism
- 1845 John Henry Newman leaves the Anglican Communion to become a Catholic
- 1854 Pope Pius IX defines the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception
- 1870 Vatican I's Pastor Aeternus defines the Dogma of Papal Infallibility**
- 1878 Pope Leo XIII initiates neo-Thomism with encyclical Aeterni Patris
- 1900 Liberal Protestantism hits high point with Adolf von Harnack's What is Christianity?
- 1907 Modernism condemned by Pope Pius X
- 1909 First tract of the series entitled The Fundamentals is published to counter liberal Protestantism, spawns the Protestant "fundamentalist" movement
- 1918 Karl Barth's Commentary on Romans begins "neo-orthodox" reaction to Liberalism
- 1943 Pius XII "canonizes" Catholic biblical criticism in Divino Afflante Spiritu
- 1962 Pope John XXIII opens the first session of the Second Vatican Council
- 1965 Pope Paul VI closes the Second Vatican Council
- 1978 Election of Pope John Paul II
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Christianity Divided

by Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D.

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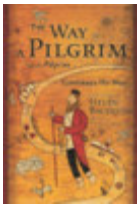


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