

*Romans 13  
relation of  
believers to the  
civil state.*

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### The Church in Historical-Theological Perspective

#### IV. The Church in the Empire (third message)

*(Ruin: the church splits  
the great danger)*

- A. A sad confession: this is an enormous period of time (313-1500) and can by no means be treated with any degree of fulfillment in this single talk. Some very important points may be gleaned but it will be done in rapid order and a lot of important things will be overlooked because time runs on! If you have individual questions in regard to this I will be happy to discuss them with you to the degree that I know anything about your area of thought. Otherwise----

The politics of the time constitute a crucial issue. Rome collapses as an imperial entity in 476 and the western world has no real political unity until the days of Charlemagne (8th century) and soon loses it after his day. Constantinople is the eastern capitol and is a constant rival to Rome with the result that the church in Rome and the church in Constantinople are virtual enemies...a circumstance that does not enhance Christianity..

This time period is beyond the Bible accounts but a reading of the Revelation letters (chapters 1-3) will prove helpful.

#### B. The Western Church: Rome (Latin)

1. A general note on size, significance, prominence and survival after the barbarian assaults.
2. A few very important leaders
- in the church: Leo I, Gregory I, Gregory VII, Innocent III
  - in the community: Augustine, Jerome, Alcuin, Bede
  - in national leadership: Charlemagne, Otto I,
  - the developed political community: The Holy Roman Empire
3. Missionary expansion: Patrick, the Celtic missionaries, Ulphilus

*Rome*

*John III*

#### C. The Eastern Church: Constantinople (Greek)

1. This political division had a great impact on the church at large...the west had no stable government for years but the east had a stable government continuing...the church in the east became very dependent on the state while the church in the west, fending for itself, actually gave the backbone of the state. As a general note the eastern church grew weaker, the western stronger...just as a matter of survival.