

II. THE ANTE-NICENE PERIOD: Overall chart of factors of Major Interest (Pentecost to 325 AD)

<u>Divisions</u>	<u>Historical Conditions</u>	<u>Conflicts</u>	<u>Doctrine/Emphasis</u>
Apostolic.. to 100	Christianity illegal.. Persecutions by Jews and Romans Much of New Testament written but canon not finalized. Christian community widely dispersed especially after 70 AD. (Fall of Jerusalem to Titus) Roman emperors very uneven in treatment of church.	Mostly with Jews then Romans. After 100 AD the conflicts may be summed up this way: <u>Philosophic:</u> Platonism Neo-Platonism Grecian Gnosticism	Great emphasis on the unity of believers and the necessity of the church. Much of the earlier production is in the area of simplistic matters of faith and order. This can be seen in the <u>Didache</u> and in the writings of the fathers: Tertullian and Origen, et al.
Post Apostolic.. to 325	Severe persecutions under Domitian (90+ AD), Marcus Aurelius (160 AD) Septimius Severus (215) Decius Trajan (250) Diocletian (300)	<u>Religious:</u> Judaism Christian syncretisms Christian cults Anti-Christian pagan reactions.	The major theological discussion was in Theology proper where, responding to certain Christian cult groups, the doctrine of the trinity was brought to fruition.
Apologetic Period is about 100 to 220.	Edict of Toleration in 311...legalizing and establishment of Christianity as empire religion in 311. First legal synod at Arles (Fr.) 314. Church be- comes dominant in North Africa, Asia Minor.	<u>Internal:</u> -Role of Bishop -What to do with the "lapsed"...those who fell away during the persecution and would like to be restored. Produced the Novatian and Donatist divisions. -disputes on baptism, charismata, worldliness.	Much discussion on authority also and what the role was of Apostolic tradition and practice.
Polemic age from about 220 to 325.			

The chief men of this period show up in our notes as we go along. The age did not formulate major statements because, while the church was illegal and troubled, it had little opportunity to work on the precise formulations of doctrinal points. But it was determined quickly that certain anti-Christian philosophies and cults were "bad news" and these were excluded from the concept of the church.