

- (1) homologia...a term identifying an open declaration of faith as in 1 Cor. 12:2
- (2) testimonia...the reported observations and resultant expressions of theological belief.
- (3) marturia...the expressions of witness given by martyrs.

All of these become very important to the early credal forms of the church.

- b. The Pauline homologia: "Jesus is Lord"
- c. The Johannine homologia: "Jesus is the Christ."

Exemplary Expressions of Faith

There are slight variations on these in the exact wordings but they probably represent very basic ways of identifying others in accord with their faith professions..

2. Some exemplary testimonia

The earliest credal form in the church beyond the simple homologia is the baptismal formula based on Matthew 28:19..."baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost." The use of the credal form apparently originates in the latter part of the first century AD. If we broke it down into what may be authentic parts, it would look like this:

- (1) in one God, Almighty
- I Believe: (2) and in Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour,
- (3) and in the Holy Ghost.

It is a simple trinitarian creed used as a testimonial for those coming to the fellowship of the church. By some it is thought to be connected with the primitive "fish symbol"

I X Θ Y E

"Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour" which was popular in the western church

3. The Doctrinal Teachings

Early works on Doctrine and Church Practice.

It came to be popular to place the basic doctrinal teachings in written form...very early in the history of the church. Three documents represent these efforts to us and all three have much in common. These are: The Doctrina, a basic summary of "apostolic" doctrine from the early second century; The Didache, incorporating much of the previous work and with an elaboration on church order and practice; and the Didascalia, a more detailed summary perhaps from later in the second century. These are treated more completely in oral discussion but are very worthy for reading to get an idea of what was