

died that is, as an attempted expression of the orthodox mind. It continues yet today as an expression of heresy and is plainly the basic doctrinal emphasis of the Russellity community (Jehovah's Witnesses) et al.

During this age, the Nicene defenders were the Cappadocian fathers: Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus, and Basil. In the west, although there was little question about this dogma in that quarter, the outstanding spokesman was Ambrose of Milan.

In 381 at the second ecumenical council, the Nicene Creed would be reaffirmed and from that point onward has been an unquestioned statement in orthodoxy. The Creed is printed in this syllabus on page 38 and will be re-phrased somewhat later in comparison with the second of these great ecumenical creeds.

3. Contributions to Historical Theology

a. To THEOLOGY PROPER...more formal consideration of the Trinity and the distinction that the unity of God is not broken by like substance in different persons. The "three in one" concept is strengthened at Nicaea although not yet clearly defined.

b. To CHRISTOLOGY..a better presentation of the Logos made flesh...with clearer emphasis on Christ's eternal progression and full powers of deity.

c. To ECCLESIOLOGY...The request of Hosius to require a celibate clergy was overwhelmingly overturned. The date of easter was fixed so that the celebration should not follow Passover and this set a precedent for the formalizing of the liturgical calendar.

Nicene Council:

Contributions

4. On Council Pronouncements, note this:

The idea was that if the church spoke in credal form...giving the mind of the total Christian community, this was doctrine in a supreme, standing level. Such pronouncements are called "horoi" and can only be changed by another council...and, in theory, are beyond the point of reconsideration. But many lesser matters of polity, etc., were determined by councils and these enactments are called "canons". Such are subject to change in local situations and the like since they are not doctrinally binding. The canons make interesting reading and show the development of the ecclesiastical life. But the creeds are the doctrinal points that fascinate us and show the grip the church was establishing on its doctrinal point.

Horoi and Canons.