

(4) And of course this ended the period of fully ecumenical councils and demonstrated that just the meeting and deliberation of the mass could not rule the hearts of the people.

5. Contributions

a. To CHRISTOLOGY...although he did not work out the details, Leo gave the definitive wording to the description of the Lord's person. To those who say he did not explain it, that is right. That is not what he intended to do. He aimed to describe it and leave it at that point. The judgment in this corner is that we would be happier with many of these things if we could follow that example. *i.e. too much probing leads to problems*

b. To ECCLESIOLOGY...although no new dogma seemed to come to light, the centralization of power continues and the structured church comes to be the expected norm.

Chalcedon:

Contributions

The

Fifth
Ecumenical
Council:

Constantinople II
553

Background

E. The Fifth Ecumenical Council: Constantinople 553, AD.

1. Background

a. The Political Foundations

The total political picture is confused beyond the point of this course. The western empire is gone and only the church offers any continuity in the west. In the East, the emperors are currently strong men for their territory but not able to do much for Rome. The Imperial throne in the east has become something of a theological center as well as the seat of government. Ecclesiastics are wild in the craze for power and there is little emotional stability.

Justin is the emperor in 518 and leans towards the monophysite views. With his leanings and the agitation of 75 years over Chalcedon, the monophysite churches are agitating for a further hearing.

But Justinian comes to the imperial chair in 527. He is an able leader and a theologian of some skill...yet set on his own way and with tyrannical capacities. He is Chalcedonian in view and has the irritation of a monophysite wife...the political intrigue in their own household is considerable. From the political viewpoint he is anxious to overcome the division and to end the impasse forced on the church by the Emperor Zeno in the last century.