

2. The Procedure of the Council

Constantinople

Convened

a. The call was for the meeting on May 5, 553. Just 154 bishops met representing mostly the eastern church with just a handful of delegates from Rome...most of whom were attendants for Vigilius, imprisoned in Constantinople. Vigilius was offered the opportunity to preside but declined although he offered a statement which was, in turn, ignored.

b. The action

Meeting in eight sessions, the council pronounced anathemas against the three chapters. They worked carefully so as only to condemn the letter of Ibas...they were guarded with Theodoret since his indiscreet charges against Cyril had been confessed and supposedly corrected. They did not remove him from the "kingdom of heaven." Theodore of Mopsuestia did not fare so well. He was in ill-favor with all parties and was accordingly pronounced a heretic and his views condemned. He, having died in 428, was not much bothered by the situation.

Excommunicated Origen

Actions

An anathema against Origen was received. He still had his defenders but his theological system, his view of the soul (pre-existent), his view of the Logos, etc., would now be the property of heretics and the men of the church felt no need to defend him or to make use of him any longer.

All in all, the actions were continually hard on the Alexandrians and did not help the monophysites. Rome came out rather well in spite of the weakness of the Roman Bishop and his inconsistent actions.

Result

c. The result

It marked the end of the "nature" disputes simply by reaffirming what was already stated and offering no recall possibilities for the monophysites. But in so doing the attitude of Constantinople aggravated the growing feeling of disunion between the east and the west

*600- Gregory - a Great Pope.
"Most fathers you don't like about the Church, started with Gregory."*

d. Contributions

No fresh contributions are noted but the clarifying of certain issues in Christology and Anthropology may be seen

This marks the end of the major councils. The ones that remain for us in this period will be treated in much more summary fashion.