

It emphasizes the Divine incarnation and the essential humanity of the Son of God...a humanity which is marked by such limitations as suffering and death. This One is God incarnate. Any who teach otherwise or limit the reality of the person are under the sentence of "anathema."

d. The Result

Apollinarianism was effectively squelched but the council did not give any guidelines on the nature of Christ and from its minutes would arise later arguments about the Lord's Person. As noted, the phraseology about the progression of the Holy Spirit would also give rise to problems in time to come. But the general effect of the council was one of wholesome endeavor. The Anti-Nicene parties were quieted and the new heresy was given the axe. The council gave only six canons, a low in conciliar activity, but some of these feature prominently in later aspects of our study.

2. The Nestorian Question

The patience of the student becomes well-tested with these names as the course goes on. But it is important to recall that we are in Christology and the Person of the Son of God is sufficiently important that no amount of detail need be spared in seeing how He is depicted in the Scripture and how the church has worked to express that depiction.

a. Background

The world of the fifth century saw the Roman Empire divided into east-west sections and saw the church morally divided between jealous factions. No one faction was probably more vexing than the rivalry between Alexandria and Constantinople...each vying to be the great ecclesiastical authority of its time. (Rome remained aloof from this--to some extent--the Roman bishop was sure he was the most important cleric and did not permit idle arguments with other bishops to threaten his post.) While I do not want to state the importance of this too strongly, yet it is significant. The bishops of the respective sees are keenly aware that theological excellence on their part requires the a sharp surveillance of doctrine on the part of others...it is the old story that if I can find fault with you I automatically look better than you do.

b. The Nestorian issue

While Constantinople (council) ended the Apollinarian heresy, it did not put to rest all questions about