

(2) Nestorianism, Eutychianism

Although the matters expressed were quite different, the resultant schismatic groups were very similar. Both represented groups that could not accept the findings of councils and so moved off to form their own churches. The special problems of each are not the issue at stake in this discussion, merely the fact of their non-conformity. As with Montanism, each developed a tightly controlled nucleus in which each body sought to emulate the parent body from which it had divided itself. The latter eventually led to several church bodies, a number of which continue to this day (The Oriental Orthodox Churches) while the former continued as a Christian church (the Nestorian church) in parts of India and Persia.

(3) The Great Schism

1054 AD saw the eastern-western division in Christianity, the move that formed the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches in time. The schism challenged the reality of the one organization but since both of the dependent bodies soon claimed that for themselves it really did nothing in the way of bringing any new thinking to the ecclesiastical doctrines.

c. The rivalry of the Sees

The desire of many of the bishops and many church sections to be the superior center of Christianity caused a rivalry of sees that promoted a lot of discord. The problems of Eutychianism, monothelitism (in particular) would have been much less in nature without the desire of one see to have a superior rating to the others. This was one of the larger causes in the great schism...mentioned above. The canons of the Councils sought to deal with this and to limit interference but it is hard to prevent ambition and greed. The ecclesiastical world is peculiarly subject to these.

d. Attempts at Reform

There were some movements that challenged the character of the developing ecclesiology and sought to work a reform from within until they were forced to some other sort of action. Among these we mention --but briefly--

- (1) Monastic reform
- (2) Lollard reform
- (3) Wycliffite reform