

On the Bishopric:

As noted, they comprise and convene the church. If one, in a given place, is defiant of the bishop he is not one with the church. The bishops as a group are the successors of the Apostles. His view is called "Ecclesia in Episcopoi". The later view of the Roman church is known as "Ecclesia in Popoi" (and the more common view of the dissenting churches of later years is written as "Ecclesia in populii".) All bishops are equal but the Bishop of Rome, by virtue of his see, is the "first among equals." Cyprian acknowledged this ideal but maintained his own sovereignty in his own see as all bishops were thought to do.

On Schismatics:

They are heretics and neither their preaching nor their baptism (or anything else they do) is valid. If they cannot be returned to the true church both they and their followers are to be condemned.

Cyprian's influence, unfortunately, in time will be a boost for the sacerdotalists. But his theology is that of the reformers and it is ironic that in the Reformation period both sides of the question appealed to him for the understanding of the early church. His letters are well worth reading and his opinions on just about anything show balance and careful thought.

Julius Africanus (240)

We cannot mention all the fathers and leaders but Julius was another of the North African fraternity and his contribution was the establishment of a systematic chronology for history and biblical data. He is called the "father of biblical chronology" and seems to have had some influence from Origen who knew him well. As with other calendar men he was not content to simply work with the past and so projected into the future...determining that the world would end about 300 AD. Like other prophets of the final moment, his ideas seem not to have been correct on that point at least.

Gregory the Illuminator 330

Appearing as the father of the Armenian church, Gregory served in the east in churches that had no organic connexion to the Mediterranean or western cultures. With the exception of the Mar Thoma Church