

PATTERNS OF GROWTH IN THE CHURCH STATE RAPPORT
AS IT DEVELOPED IN THE IMPERIAL AGE AFTER
THE EDICE OF MILAN.

State GovernmentChurch Government

Emperor

Monarchial Bishop (later, pope)

Senate

Higher clergy (later, cardinals)

Imperial Governor

Archbishop

Provincial Governor

Local Bishop

Civitas

Clergy

Common People

Laity

The Greek church uses Patriarch for the higher level and Metropolitan in the lower bishopric. Some other terms are used as well. But the idea of office for the church and the resultant authority for the officials seems to be borrowed plainly from the civil powers.

An interesting study may be made in the clerical garments and how each of these was modeled after the garb of the civil leaders...just in case you wondered who developed those funny clothes. Of course, once developed, all were given spiritual meaning. But it is really not easy to find distinctive dress and break down of office in the biblical narrative...although this does not mean we cannot have it, of course.