

IV.1.c

Church and State arrangements (imperial age)

Naturally the situation is different now that Christianity is legal and even preferred. It is soon to be the only accepted life style and one can see that this will add a lot of names to the church books. Here are some interesting dates in the development of the church state affair...not dates for your memorization but for your observation and notation on how quickly the oppressed can become the oppressor.

- 311, the Edict of Toleration.
- 312, the Edict of Milan
- 314, the Synod of Arles...the state will call and subsidize the church gatherings...and enforce its conclusions.
- 325, the Council of Nicaea: many points answered
- 341, superstition outlawed; no pagan sacrifice
- 346, non-Christians forbidden temple access
- 356, sacrifice to pagan gods, conversion to Judaism, both deemed capital offenses
- 380, all pagan rites banned
- 392, all heathen worship forbidden
- 394, pagan temple property confiscated; Olympic games ended by law.
- 416, pagans forbidden military, government service
- 550, Athenian academy closed.

And there are a lot of other steps in between and other enactments undertaken. This is a token list and many of the items mentioned can stand a lot of further explanation. But it gives you an idea of what I mean. And, without saying, you can have a rather good idea of the sort of Christianity that was produced under regulations like this.

The favored state of the church showed up in aspects of public life as an institution along these lines.

- 313, special privileges to the clergy, subsidization for the institution.
- 319, clergy freed from military, public duties
- 321, church given full rights to the receipt of estates and benevolences.
- 325, church given corporate support of government in determined matters of ecclesiastical polity and included in this package were the matters that follow: