

Priscillian

Often called the first martyr of the church by the church, Priscillian was a bishop in Spain (Avila) about 380, was charged with trinitarian heresies, condemned and executed in 385. He confessed to certain false teachings under the pain of torture, inflicted by the church authorities...a dubious way of getting information, and the case against him is still not clear.

Theodore of Cyprus along with Theodoret...accused of monophysitism and while the latter was "cleared" at Chalcedon, the reputations of both were tarnished. Theodore argued that Christ was limited in person, not in nature or essence. You will see their names from time to time.

Theodore of Mopsuestia

Died about 428 and was the foremost advocate of literal and grammatical/historical exegesis of his time. He seems to have sided with Nestorius and received some similar condemnation posthumously. He was a noted academician and Bible commentator.

Individuals easily become promoters of dissent and sometimes they are "good" persons. The sure way to grief is to follow one of the classical paths of heresy or rebellion. Naturally an apostate turning is also a cause of grief. But the sort of dissent we see most often is that caused by individuals who "ride a hobby" to the point where it is just distracting and more often to the degree where it becomes divisive. It is, in my opinion, a good idea to pursue those truths where the church has know agreement, to a very hearty extent. But particular insights and understandings where godly men have not had such agreement should be preached or emphasized at a secondary level. I am not suggesting a toning down of the truth...just some assurance of what truth is before making a life and death commitment.

IV.2.c. Issues in Theology

Issues in Theology

A number of theological struggles emerge in the life of the church in addition to those already mentioned. Some brief summaries are offered below and there will probably be very little elaboration in class: