

as the Cappadocians and their influence in the development of eastern theology is large as was their influence at the Council of Constantinople and the overthrow of the Apollinarian teaching. Briefly sketched, these leaders were:

Basil the Great (330-379) Bishop of Caesarea after 370.

In some ways Basil was the systematizer of the Nicene Theology and a strong defender of the Creed. His disputes with Arians and near-Arians were monumental and his emphasis on an ascetic community life was a step in the development of eastern monasticism.

Gregory of Nyssa (330-395) Bishop of Nyssa after 371

A brother of Basil, Gregory of Nyssa is best remembered as a prominent preacher, theologian, and mystical leader. His mysticism does not carry him from earthly duties but allowed him to face them in a spirit of idealism and assurance. He has been referred to as a "Father of Fathers" in the conciliar works.

Gregory of Nazianzus (330-389) Bishop of Sassima, but in actuality assistant bishop of Nazianzus...a complicated story and I will spare you the details.

He is the most famous preacher of the group and thought to be the most comprehensive theologian. He was a strong foe of Arianism and worldliness and an advocate of a moderate asceticism. Following the death of Melitus, first moderator of the council of Constantinople, Gregory chaired the meetings and steered the council to its positive conclusions.

These three men were the forces used in the east to complete the formation and acceptance of the Nicene theology...the term "Cappadocians" uniformly describes all three.

Ambrose of Milan (340-397)

Ambrose was a military man who rather fell into the Bishopric. He is better known as the man under whose preaching Augustine felt the pull of grace. But as a military adjunct in Milan,