

# **A Survey of Church History**

## **Arianism and Nicaea**

### **I. Arius and Arianism**

- A. Arius and his teaching
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. An Evaluation of Arius' teaching
  - 1. Ignores the overwhelming passages that affirm the deity of Christ
  
  
  
  - 2. Twists the 'subordination' passages
  
  
  
  - 3. Perverts "First-born" passages
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. The Spread of Arianism

### **II. The Council at Nicaea**

- A. Alexander and Arius
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. The role of Constantine
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. Precursor Council, 325 AD
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- D. The universal council at Nicaea, 325 AD

### **III. The Nicene Creed**

- A. In the end the anti-Arians won out, at least in the formulation of the Creed
- B. The Creed itself (shorter than what we generally call the Nicene Creed. Our version is actually the Nicene-Constantinople Creed).

- C. The teaching of the Creed
  - 1. The eternal Sonship and the nature of Christ
  - 2. The anathema

### **III. The Aftermath of the Creed**

- A. Although this looked like a victory for the Orthodox, it was not.
- B. Constantine, feeling the pressure of the debate, tries to patch things up with Arius.
- C. Regardless of the aftermath, the Nicene Creed stands as a monument of Ecumenical orthodoxy in defending the person of Christ.

### **IV. Arius and the Arians After Nicaea**

- A. Arianism became increasingly pro-emperor in its theology
- B. The demise of Arius

## **Conclusions**