

Church History Session 4: 376 - 664
Coast Community Church; Jackson Tran; 09-15-2019

- **5 Events You Should Know**

1. **First Council of Constantinople (381):** The church's second general council denounced Apollinarianism and approved the Nicene Creed.
2. **Emperor Theodosius Declared Christianity the Official Religion of the Empire (391).**
3. **Council of Ephesus (431):** The church's third general council accused Nestorius of teaching that Jesus was two separate persons, one human and one divine.
4. **Council of Chalcedon (451):** At the church's fourth general council more than 500 overseers condemned the One-Nature ("Monophysite") view of Christ. They agreed that, according to Scripture, Christ was one person with two natures (one human, one divine). This became known as the Two-Nature ("Dyophysite") view.
5. **Second Council of Constantinople (553):** Around 542, One-Nature theology became popular again. Justinian, emperor of the Eastern Empire, convened the church's fifth general council to end the controversy. The council denounced the *Three Chapters* – the writings of three Nestorians (all of whom were dead anyways). The council also declared that Jesus' mother remained a virgin throughout her life.

- **7 Names You Should Know**

1. **Pelagius (died 420):** Monk who taught that humans have the natural ability to please God. Denounced by a local council in Carthage (418) and by the Council of Ephesus.
2. **Theodore of Mopsuestia (350-428):** Theologian from Antioch who held some Nestorian views. His writings were included in the *Three Chapters*.
3. **Augustine of Hippo (354-430):** North African overseer. Greatest theologian of his era.
4. **Benedict of Nursia (480-550):** Father of Western monasticism. Wrote *The Rule of Benedict*, a manual for monks. Founded religious communities near Monte Cassino, Italy, with his sister Scholastica.
5. **Columba (521-597):** Irish missionary, founder of Iona monastery.
6. **Gregory (540-604):** First Roman bishop to attain the status that would later be linked with the title "pope." The sixty-fourth pope for Roman Catholics.
7. **Augustine of Canterbury (died, 605):** Monk sent by Pope Gregory I to begin new churches in England after barbarians destroyed previous missionaries' work.

- **5 Terms You Should Know**

1. **General Council:** One of seven councils acknowledged by Eastern and Western Christians.
2. **Apollinarianism:** The belief that Jesus had no human mind. Named after Apollinaris, an early proponent. The First Council of Constantinople condemned Apollinarianism.
3. **Theotokos:** A Greek word meaning "God-bearer." Many Christians called Jesus' mother *theotokos*. Nestorius criticized the term, arguing that Mary didn't bear only a divine being; Mary bore the Lord Jesus Christ, who was fully human and fully divine.

4. **Nestorianism:** The belief that Jesus was two separate persons, one human and one divine. Named after Nestorius who was unfairly accused of teaching this view. This view is more properly termed “hyper-Dyophysitism” (“beyond two natures”).
5. **Monophysitism:** From the Greek *monophysis* (“one-nature”). The belief that Jesus’ divine nature fully absorbed his human nature. Also called “Eutychianism,” after an early proponent.

Church Councils in the 4th and 5th Centuries

Council	Year	Issue	Conclusion
Nicaea	325	Arianism	First church-wide council, produced the Creed of Nicaea; Jesus is equal to God the Father.
Constantinople	381	Apollinarianism	Second church-wide council, approved the Nicene Creed; Jesus was both human and divine.
Ephesus	431	Nestorianism	Third church-wide council, clarified that Jesus was one person not two persons in one body.
Chalcedon	451	Eutychianism	Fourth church-wide council, clarified that, though Jesus was one person, he possessed human and divine natures.

Views of Jesus in Christian History

