

The History of the Church – Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy

I. Numerical AND theological growth/change.

- Our tendency is to see theology as **static** rather than **dynamic**.
- The Bible tells a single *Story* written over 1500 years with multiple agents [40] under one author [i.e. the Holy Spirit].
- **Progressive Revelation**

“Progressive revelation is the teaching that God has revealed himself and his will through the Scriptures with an increasing clarity as more and more of the Scriptures were written. In other words, the later the writing the more information is given. Therefore, God reveals knowledge in a progressive and increasing manner throughout the Bible from the earliest time to later time.”

<https://carm.org/what-is-progressive-revelation-and-is-it-scriptural>

- **Historical Theology**

“**Historical theology** integrates the thoughts of other Christians throughout the centuries since the times of the Bible. Church history is of vital importance to historical theology since it provides theology the context in which it was produced and defined. Systematic Theology attempts to create a statement of faith explaining the leading doctrines of the Christian Bible. Historical Theology, then, embodies both of these concepts as a way of informing theologians as to what has been believed in the past, and as to what corrections, improvements, or adherence ought to be made in the present based on that information.” An Introduction to Historical Theology, by C. Matthew McMahon in

<http://www.theopedia.com/historical-theology#note-0>

II. ORTHODOXY

“**RIGHT OPINION**”

Orthodoxy (from Greek ὀρθοδοξία, *orthodoxia* – “right opinion”) is adherence to correct or accepted creeds, especially in religion. In the Christian sense the term means “conforming to the Christian faith as represented in the creeds of the early Church”. The first seven Ecumenical Councils were held between the years 325 and 787 with the aim of formalizing accepted doctrines.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodoxy>

III. ORTHOPRAXY

“**CORRECT PRACTICE**”

In the study of religion, **orthopraxy** is correct conduct, both ethical and liturgical, as opposed to faith or grace etc. This contrasts with orthodoxy, which emphasizes correct belief, and ritualism, the use of rituals. The word is a neoclassical compound – ὀρθοπραξία (*orthopraxia*) meaning ‘correct practice’.

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IV. APOLOGETICS

“Apologetics may be simply defined as the **defense** of the Christian faith.”

<https://bible.org/seriespage/2-what-apologetics>

V. POLEMICS

“A strong written or spoken **attack** against someone else's opinions, beliefs, practices, etc.

www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/polemic”

VI. OKAY

- The NT address **Judaizers** and **Gnosticism**.
- The NT Church attempted to address other attacks through Councils.
- 1st Seven Ecumenical Councils

VII. Now What?

- Invasion of Rome

The City of God Against the Pagans) is a book written in Latin by Augustine of Hippo in the early 5th century AD. The book was in response to allegations that Christianity brought about the decline of Rome.

- The rise of Islam
- The Great Schism
- The Crusades

VIII. So What Happened?

- MYOPIC
 - Lost sight of the **BIG PICTURE**.
 - “Couldn’t see the forest because of the Trees”
 - There was a failure to see the TIME.
 - Orthodoxy must lead to Orthopraxy in the context of Orthopathy.
 - Lost sight of the Mission of Church Planting locally, nationally, and globally.
 - Acts 1:8 is not an either/or program. It is both/and.
- SELFISHNESS

The East saw the invasion of the “**Barbarian**” into the West as “THERE PROBLEM.”

The West saw the invasion of the “**Muslim**” into the East as “THERE PROBLEM.”

- ONE BODY

There is only one body that is present in multiple geographical locations.

- DARK AGES

In general, the middle Ages are defined by a lack of central government, decline of trade, population shift to rural areas, decrease in learning, and a rise in the power of the Roman Catholic Church.

At the same time that Western Europe was in the Middle Ages, the eastern half of the Romans Empire continued as the BYZANTINE EMPIRE, and the Islamic world was experiencing a Golden Age.

Historians refer to the years between 476CE and the Renaissance (the rebirth of Western Europe) as the Middle Ages.

IX. The Reformation

- Who was where AND
- What Happened?



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• **Progressive Revelation**

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ORTHODOXY

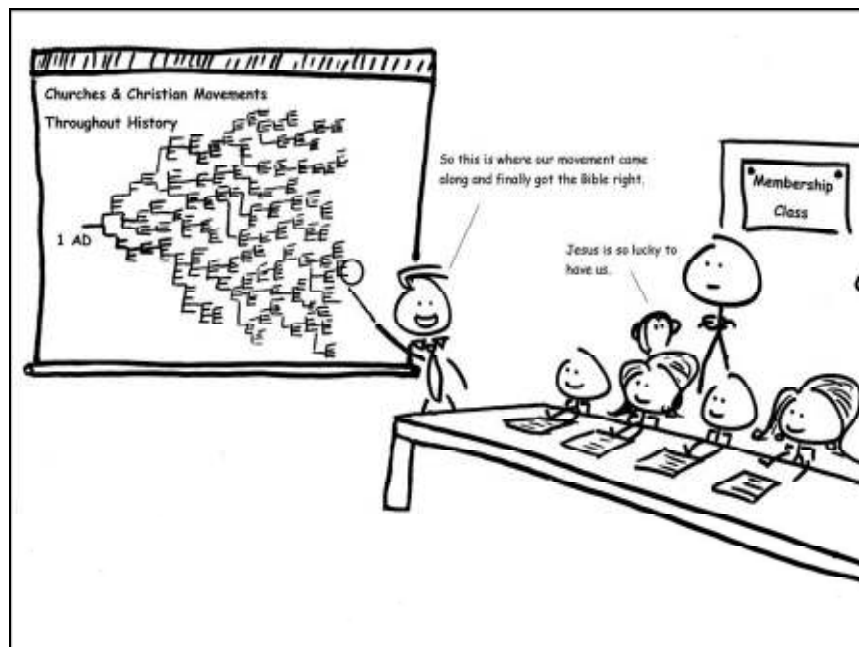
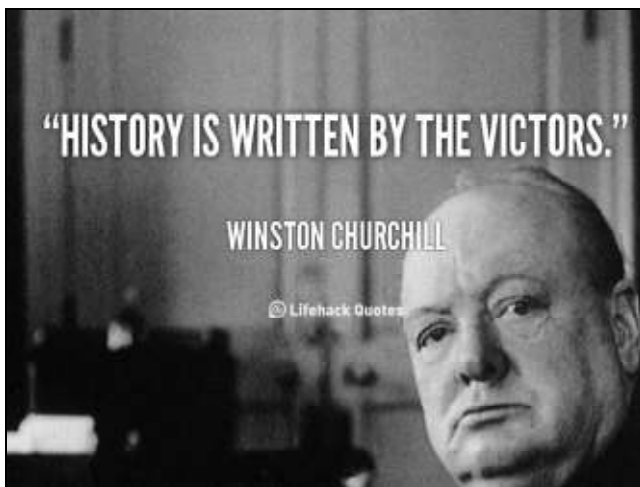
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APOLOGETICS

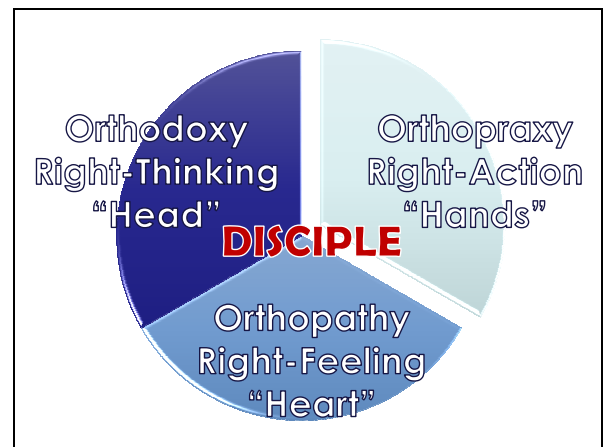
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POLEMICS

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	Date	Heart of the ERROR	Chief Historical Proponent	Character
Judaizers	1 st Cent.	Soteriology Adding works to grace as grounds for Justification	A group of former Pharisees in the Jerusalem Church	Legalistic, blending OT Judaism with Christian ideas
Gnostics	2 nd Cent.	Christology Denying the reality of the incarnation	Various early heretics	Mystical, blending paganism with Christian ideas
Arians	4 th Cent.	Christology Denying the deity of Christ	Arius, several bishops	Unitarian, Denying the full deity of Christ and the Trinity
Pelagians	5 th Cent.	Soteriology Denying the primacy and sufficiency of divine grace	Pelagius, Coelestius	Anthropocentric, denying human fallenness, elevating free will above divine sovereignty; making the sinner responsible for his/her own salvation
Socinians	16 th Cent.	Soteriological/Christological	Laelius and Faustus Sozzini	Rationalistic, absorbing the worst elements of all heresies

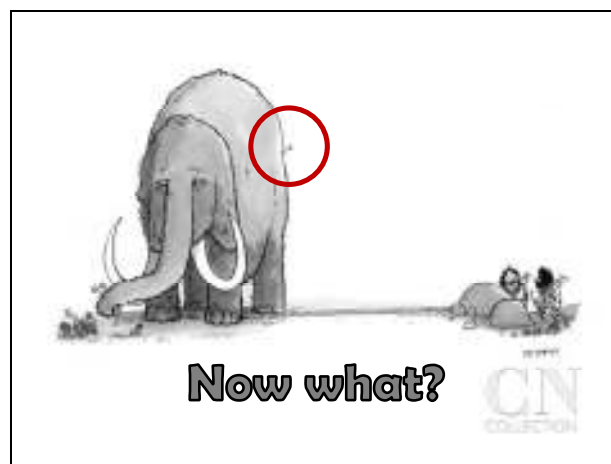
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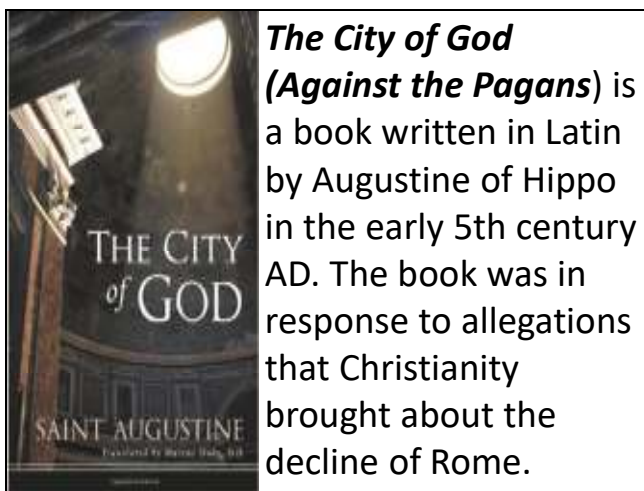
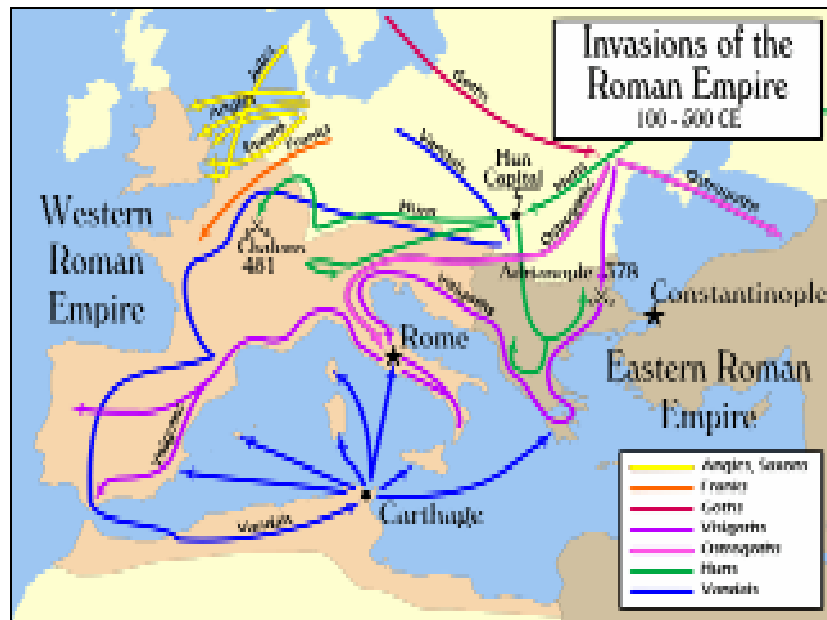
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1st 7 Ecumenical Councils

1 st Nicaea	325
1 st Constantinople	381
Council Ephesus	431
Council Chalcedon	451
2 nd Constantinople	553
3 rd Constantinople	680-681
2 nd Nicaea	787

Council	Issue	“Bad” Guy	“Good” Guy	Outcome
Nicaea 325AD	Eternal Deity of Christ	Arius / Christ is a Created Being	Athanasius Christ is God	Eternal Deity of Christ Affirmed Nicene Creed
Constantinople 381AD	Person of Christ	Apollinarius Christ is Divine Logos but not human spirit	Gregory of Nestansius	Complete Humanity of Christ Affirmed Nicene Creed Affirmed
Ephesus 431AD	Person of Christ	Nestorius Against the Deity of Christ	Cyril of Alexandria	Complete Deity of Christ Affirmed Nicene Creed Affirmed
Chalcedon 451AD	Person of Christ	Eutyches Christ is a “tertium quid” A 3 rd unique nature	Flavian of Constantinople and Leo of Rome	Two Natures of Christ Affirmed (Human Nature and Divine Nature)






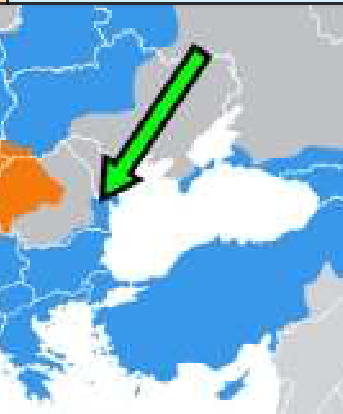
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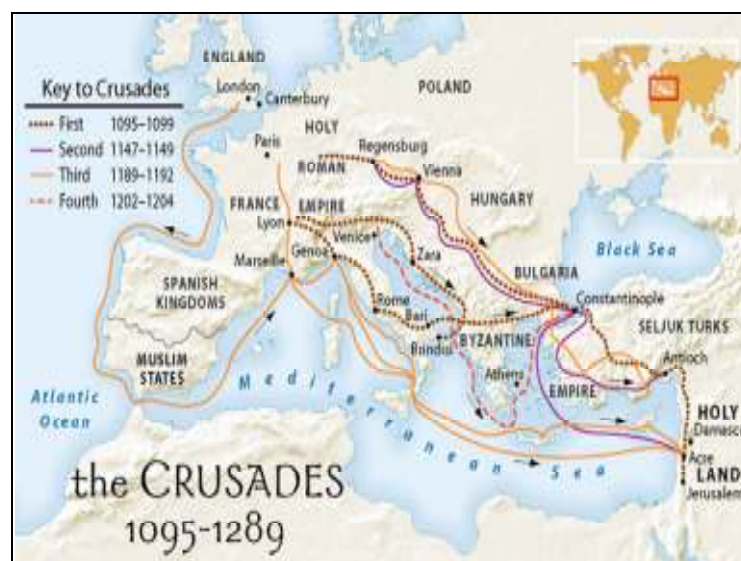


The Great Schism (East-West Schism)

- “Schism” = split
- The Great Schism, also called the East-West Schism, occurred in 1054 AD
- Resulted in a division between Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism



Christians in Western Europe became the <i>Roman Catholic Church</i>	Christians in Eastern Europe became the <i>Eastern Orthodox Church</i>
	

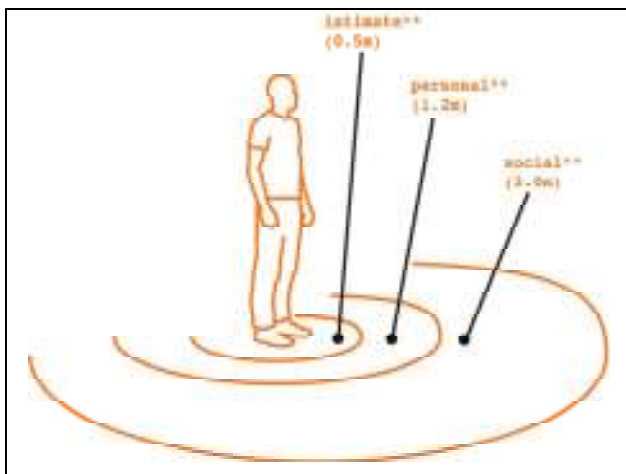




MYOPIC

- Lost sight of the BIG PICTURE.

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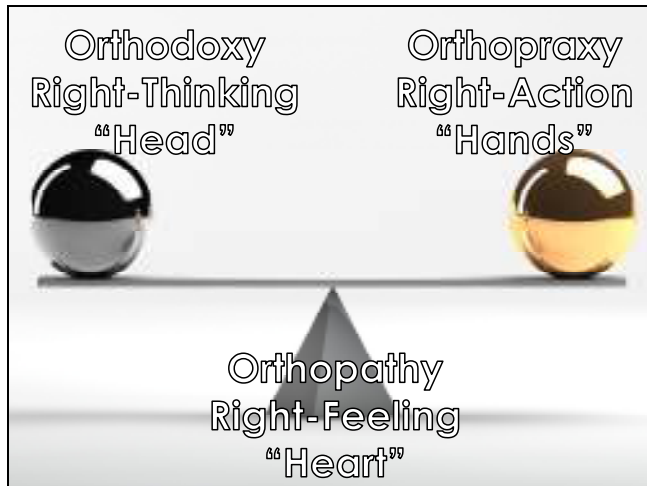


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DARK AGES



- When the German tribes took over Rome in **476 AD**, the Roman Empire came to its end. Historians use this date to mark the end of ancient times.

The 1000 years that followed are called the Middle Ages. This is because these years came between ancient times and the modern times in which we now live.

DARK AGES

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