

POWER OF BISHOPS

Bishops emerged as leaders of the Church

Power of Bishops increased as they made the decisions on Church Controversies...they became the “final word” on God and Church

Church Controversies

A) APOSTATES – one who has abandoned one’s religious faith

B) HERESIES – ideas believed to be wrong by the Church

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APOSTATES

Emperor Decius tortured Christians to try and make them If Christians denied their faith they would not be let back into the Church

— Decius had children “hacked up” in front of mothers to deny their Christianity

?? What would Church do for those that deny their faith due to persecution

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Cyprian (Bishop of Carthage) said those persecuted could be forgiven based on 2 things:

1) Church/Bishop were so “holy” they could grant forgiveness

2) Penance

Reaction to Cyprian’s claims:


A) **Novation** = NO

- no human can forgive, only GOD can forgive
- Do not add to Bible, regardless of situation

B) **Cornelius** = YES

- Church agreed
- becomes Bishop of Rome
- empowers Bishop to play “God”**

RESULTS OF SIDING WITH CORNELIUS

- 1) NO salvation outside of Church
- 2) Bishop had power to forgive – provide “GRACE”
- 3) Forgiveness “earned” by Penance
- 4) Power of Bishop 

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HERESIES

Roman Emperors called for church councils to stop heresies

- ❖ **Roman Empire had become a “theocracy”**
 - **Religious problems are also political problems**
- ❖ **to prevent splits you must give an “official position”**

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Arian Heresy

- Jesus was not God, but a created being similar to God, but not of same substance
- Jehovah's Witness

Athanasian Creed

- affirms the Trinity

Appollinarian Heresy

- Jesus is God in body, but the person he becomes does not have a human mind/soul

Nicene Creed

- Re-affirms the Trinity

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Nestorian Heresy

- ❑ Jesus is two distinct persons...God and man, rather than a single person
- ❑ denied the Virgin Mary was the mother of Jesus

Eutichian Heresy

- ❑ Jesus is fully divine and human, but Jesus the human was absorbed into the divine

Chalcedonian Creed

- ❑ Jesus is Fully Human and Fully Divine and unified in 1 person

“...he who makes decisions has the power and Bishops developed the power!”

SUPREMACY OF POPE

“PAPA” of ALL Christendom”

1) ROME AS CAPITAL OF ROMAN EMPIRE

- historical relevance
- veneration of Peter / Paul as “martyrs” who died in Rome

2) PETRINE DOCTRINE

- Damasus (Bishop of Rome) was the 1st to state that “The Holy Roman Church takes precedence over all other churches not on the ground of any synod decision but because it was given the primacy by the word of our Lord and redeemer Jesus Christ.”**
- Papal Supremacy**
- Apostolic Succession**

SUPREMACY OF POPE

3) BARBARIAN INVASIONS

□ Emperor Valentinian III surrenders authority to Pope Leo I, ordering all to obey the Roman Pope who has the "primacy of Saint Peter"

- *"... only way to safeguard peace among churches everywhere is to acknowledge Rome's leadership universally"*

□ **Pope Leo I protected Rome from "Scourge of God"**

SUPREMACY OF POPE

4) CRUSADES

- Muslims took control of "Holy Lands"
- Byzantine Emperor asked Pope Urban II for help
 - 1095 Pope Urban II sent "Crusaders" to regain "Holy Lands"

5) MISSIONARIES

- PATRICK (IRELAND)
- BONIFACE (GERMANY)
- AUGUSTINE (ENGLAND)
- CLOVIS (FRANCE)