

Council of Jerusalem (50)

1. Grace eliminates the need to observe Mosaic circumcision and dietary laws, ensures Catholic Church.
2. Papal and Apostolic Authority: "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." Acts 15:28

The Great Eastern Ecumenical Councils1) First General Council of Nicea (325)

- A. Established the Nicene Creed to refute Arianism.
 - a. Declared the divinity of Christ, "consubstantial."
 - b. Declared the humanity of Christ, "suffered death and was buried."
- B. Rebuked the Donatists for shunning reverts who denied the faith during persecution.
- C. Established the first catholic canons.

2) First General Council of Constantinople (381)

- A. Declared the Holy Spirit "The Lord and giver of life," refuting Macedonianism.
- B. Finalized the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed.

Councils of Rome (382), Hippo (393), Carthage (397) Fixed the canon of Holy Scriptures, including the Apocrypha.

3) General Council of Ephesus (431)

- A. Declared Christ has both divine and human nature refuting Nestorianism.
- B. Declared that Mary is the mother of God (Theotokos).

Nestorian Schism

Threefold Test of Orthodoxy: Believed Always, Everywhere, by All.

4) General Council of Chalcedon (451)

Declared Christ has both divine and human nature but one person refuting Monophysitism.

Monophysite Schism- Oriental Orthodox: Coptic, Syriac, Armenian, and Georgian Churches rejected Chalcedon.

5) Second General Council of Constantinople (553)

- A. Rejected universal salvation and works-righteousness, Originism, and Pelagianism.
- B. Declared celibacy for bishops and set the clergy apart as a privileged rank.

The Third Council of Toledo (589)

- A. The west changed the Creed unilaterally, adding 'and the Son.'
- B. The east rejected, both rejected compromise: 'from the Father through the Son.'

6) Third General Council of Constantinople (680)

- A. Declared Jesus has both divine and human will refuting Monothelitism.
- B. Posthumously declared Pope Honorius a heretic for accepting Monothelitism.

7) Second General Council of Nicea (787)

- A. Declared that icons 'aid' veneration and worship by depicting the faith.
- B. Condemned Adoptionism, the belief that Jesus is the adopted son of God.

8) Fourth Council of Constantinople (879)

Deposed The Patriarch Photius as the emperor deposed his predecessor for political interference.

Great Schism (1054) The Catholic Church became the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches.

Western Councils

9-12) Lateran Church Councils (1123, 1139, 1179 & 1215)

1. Ended secular control of the Church and marriage for priests.
2. Sentenced Arnold of Brescia to silence and exile.
3. Required two-thirds vote of Cardinals to elect future Popes.
 - a. Prevented anyone from assuming the role of Bishop before the age of thirty.
 - b. Banned fees for sacraments.
4. Declared the Waldensians and Albigensians heretics and Re-enforced seventy canons including:
 - a. Transubstantiation;
 - b. Roman primacy followed by Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem;
 - c. Restricted civil law against clerics;
 - d. Mandated annual confession and identifying garb for Jews and Muslims.

Gratian Consolidation of Canon Law (12th Century)

13-14) Lyon Councils

- A. First: ordered the 7th Crusade.
- B. Second: Tried but failed to reunify the Catholic Church.

15) The Council of Vienne (France, 1311-13)

- A. Imputed crimes and errors to the Knights Templar; excommunicated Beghards, and Beguines.
- B. Instituted the papal tiara and papal legates.

The Great Western Schism (1378)

Three 'popes' at one time.

16) Council of Constance (1414-18)

- A. "The Holy Council of Constance holds its power from Christ; everyone, no matter what his rank or office, even if it be Papal, is bound to obey it in whatever pertains to faith."
- B. England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the Cardinals each held one vote.
- C. They elected Martin V (1417-31) who only validated his election.

Collegial Council of Basle (1431-9)

Proscribed an oath for popes to accept conciliar authority, never officially accepted or overruled.

17) Council of Ferrara-Florence (1439-1445)

- A. Reestablished papal supremacy, subjecting the role of Councils.
- B. Organized the response to the Ottoman threat.
- C. Re-opened the door to reconciliation, but the Orthodox community rejected it.

18) The Fifth Lateran Council (1512-17)

- A. Proposed Church reform seeking the purity of the early church and deeper study of Scriptures.
- B. Pope repudiated the Council's proposals.

19) Council of Trent (1545-66)

- A. 1545-47: Affirmed indulgences, Cardinal majority vote canon law, patristic continuity and constancy, Bible plus tradition, faith plus works, seven sacraments, and reform of abuse.
- B. 1551-2: Declared transubstantiation dogma.
- C. 1552-63: Formalized the doctrine of purgatory, directed all diocese to construct seminaries.
- D. Post Council- 1564: Issued profession of faith; 1566: published vernacular Catechism for priests and laymen.

Vatican Councils

20) Vatican I

- A. Son of God: teaching on the nature of God, faith, reason, revelation, and scripture.
- B. Eternal Father: the first dogmatic constitution.
 - a. The Roman Church and Pontiff are preeminent.
 - b. The Pope is inerrant when he speaks on faith and morals, ex-cathedra.
- C. Counterargument: Popes Honorius and Vigilius heresy, Pope Sixtus V's errant Vulgate revision, and Pope John XXII's calling Papal Infallibility the "the work of the devil, the father of all lies."
- D. Sixty Bishops, including Americans, walked out. Some Germans, Austrians, and Swiss seceded.

21) Vatican II

- A. Pope John XXIII/Pope Paul VI:
 - a. Called for constant church reform,
 - b. Declared a mandatory retirement age for Bishops,
 - c. Withdrew papal election rights for Cardinals at seventy-five,
 - d. Rescinded mutual excommunications of 1054 with Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras.
- B. Issued *4 Constitutions* (Principles), 3 Declarations (Beliefs), and 9 Decrees (Edicts):
 1. *Liturgy: Revised texts, rituals, and roles of priests and laymen.*
 2. *Church: Mystical Body-full lay participation served by a hierarchy of collegial authority.*
 3. *Revelation: Church authority in Scripture and Tradition open to growth in understanding.*
 4. *Pastoral: Church is part of the world: interpret it according to the Gospel, serving humanity.*
 5. Christian Education: humane and current, concerned for maturity and social responsibility.
 6. Non-Christian Religions: God speaks through other faiths, especially Judaism- encourage dialogue and collaboration.
 7. Religious Liberty: Human dignity and freedom of faith preclude forced conversion.
 8. *Missionary Activity*: All are obligated to evangelize non-Christians respecting their culture.
 9. *Priests*: Defines the ministry, functions, relationships, spirituality, and aids available.
 10. *Lay Apostolate*: lay activism in Bible Study and Church mission, especially temporal affairs.
 11. *Training of Priests*: Spiritual formation, pastoral activity, and service.
 12. *Religious Life*: Sets norms for renewal, community life, prayer, and education.
 13. *Bishops*: pastors who exercise authority in service, collaborating with other bishops.
 14. *Ecumenism*: Body of Christ includes separated Christians; all sides bear responsibility.
 - a.
 15. *Byzantine Catholics*: maintain their liturgy, spirituality, and discipline, an Orthodox bridge.
 16. *Media*: Church supports and uses modern media while vigilant of and opposing abuses.

We believe in one God, (Deuteronomy 6: 4, Ephesians 4: 6)
 the Father, (Matthew 6: 9)
 Almighty, (Exodus 6: 3)
 Maker of Heaven and Earth, (Genesis 1: 1)
 and of all things visible and invisible. (Colossians 1: 15-16)
 I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, (Acts 11: 17)
 The only begotten Son of God, (Matthew 14: 33; 16: 16), (John 1: 18; 3: 16)
 born of the Father before all ages. (John 1: 2)
 God from God, Light from Light, (Psalm 27: 1; John 8: 12; Matthew 17: 2,5)
 True God from True God, (John 17: 1-5)
 begotten, not made, (Psalms 33:6; Acts 5:3)
 consubstantial with the Father, (John 10: 30)
 through whom all things were made; (Hebrews 1: 1-2)
 For us men and for our salvation, (1 Timothy 2: 4-5)
 he came down from heaven, (John 6: 33,35)
 and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1: 35)
 and became man. (John 1: 14)
 For our sake he was crucified (Mark 15: 25; 1 Corinthians 15: 3)
 under Pontius Pilate, (John 19: 6)
 he suffered death, (Mark 8: 31)
 and was buried. (Luke 23: 53; 1 Corinthians 15: 4)
 and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. (Luke 24: 1; 1 Corinthians 15: 4)
 He ascended into heaven, (Luke 24: 51; Acts 1: 10)
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. (Mark 16: 19; Acts 7: 55)
 He will come again in glory (Matthew 24: 27)
 to judge the living and the dead; (Acts 10: 42; 2 Timothy 4: 1)
 and his kingdom will have no end. (2 Peter 1: 11)
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, (John 14: 26; Acts 5: 3-4)
 the giver of Life, (Genesis 1: 2)
 who proceeds from the Father [and the Son], (John 15: 26)
 who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, (Matthew 3: 16-17)
 who spoke through the prophets. (1 Samuel 19: 20)
 I believe in one, holy, (Matthew 16: 18; 1 Peter 2: 5,9)
 catholic, and apostolic Church. (Acts 2: 42; Ephesians 2: 19-22)
 I confess one baptism for sins (Ephesians 4: 5; Acts 2: 38)
 and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, (John 11: 24; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-49; Hebrews
 6: 2; Revelation 20: 5)
 and the life of the world to come. (Mark 10: 29-30)