

**THE APOSTLES &
ELDERS
GATHERED
TOGETHER...**



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PROBLEM



**Solution
1**

**Solution
2**

**Solution
3**

- We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten of his Father, of the substance of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father. By whom all things were made, both which be in heaven and in earth. Who for us men and for our salvation came down [from heaven] and was incarnate and was made man. He suffered and the third day he rose again, and ascended into heaven. And he shall come again to judge both the quick and the dead. And [we believe] in the Holy Ghost. And whosoever shall say that there was a time when the Son of God was not (ἦν ποτε ὅτε οὐκ ἦν), or that before he was begotten he was not, or that he was made of things that were not, or that he is of a different substance or essence [from the Father] or that he is a creature, or subject to change or conversion — all that so say, the Catholic and Apostolic Church anathematizes them.



- **Nicaea 5 - Concerning those, whether of the clergy or the laity, who have been excommunicated, the sentence is to be respected by the bishops of each province according to the canon which forbids those expelled by some to be admitted by others. But let an inquiry be held to ascertain whether anyone has been expelled from the community because of pettiness or quarrelsomeness or any such ill nature on the part of the bishop. Accordingly, in order that there may be proper opportunity for inquiry into the matter, it is agreed that it would be well for synods to be held each year in each province twice a year, so that these inquiries may be conducted by all the bishops of the province assembled together, and in this way by general consent those who have offended against their own bishop may be recognized by all to be reasonably excommunicated, until all the bishops in common may decide to pronounce a more lenient sentence on these persons. The synods shall be held at the following times: one before Lent, so that, all pettiness being set aside, the gift offered to God may be unblemished; the second after the season of autumn.**
- **Constantinople 2 – Diocesan bishops are not to intrude in any churches beyond their own boundaries nor are they to confuse the churches...**





ACTS 15

THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL

- Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. (15:2)
- But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.” (15:5)
- Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.” (15:10-11)
- Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God. (15:19)



TWO TYPES OF COUNCILS

Local Council

- Headed and called by local bishop/Metropolitan
- Local synod/council meets
- Addresses local issues of worship, discipline, order, etc.
- In ancient times, would be bishop and all priests of locality
 - As church grew, priests were replaced by auxiliary or bishops of smaller cities
- Decisions can become universal

Ecumenical Council

- Were not “Ecumenical” from the start
- Called by the Emperor (paid for travel and lodging)
- All the Metropolitans/Patriarchs of major cities and dioceses were called
- Five major sees must be represented (Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem)
- Decisions are universal for the Church



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THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA (325)

- The teachings of Arius (*heteroousios* vs. *homoousios*)
- The date for the celebration of Passover/Easter
- The baptism of heretics
- Status of those who lapsed during persecution, especially the clergy



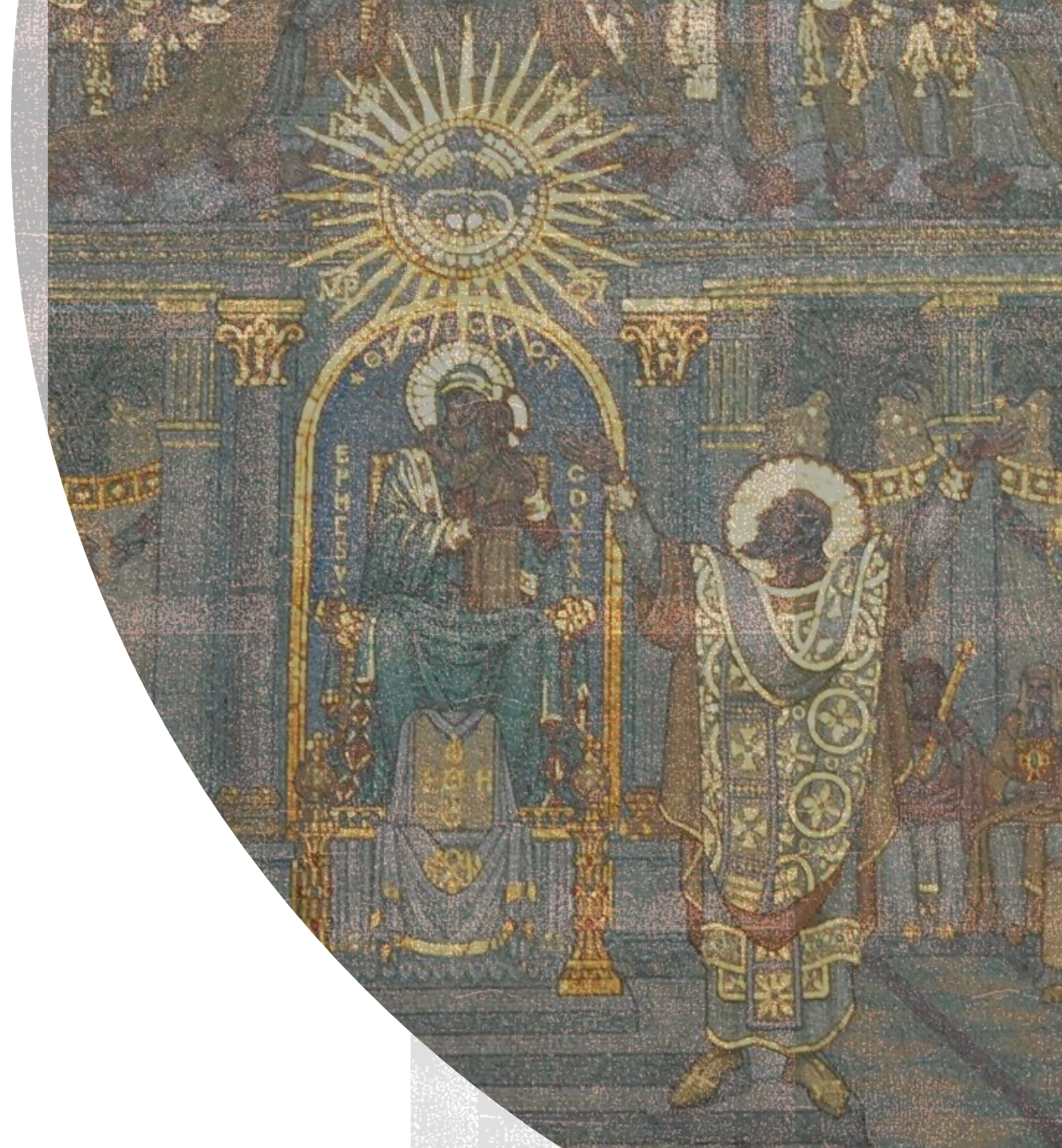


THE COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE (381)

- Lingering issues of Arianism
- Issue of Macedonius (Pneumatomachianism)
- Place of honor of Constantinople
- Bishops and their boundaries
- How to receive those who lapsed from faith and return
- Affirmed the Council of Nicaea

THE COUNCIL OF EPHESUS (431)

- The teachings of Nestorius (*Theotokos* vs. *Christotokos*)
- The status of bishops who join heresy
- Reaffirmation of the Holy Spirit as God
- Affirmed the Councils of Nicaea & Constantinople



all

SAINTS

