

Third Ecumenical Council

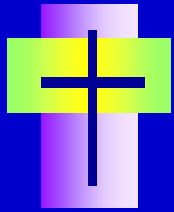
PROBLEM ABOUT THE TITHE THEOTOKOS

St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church,
East Brunswick, NJ. USA



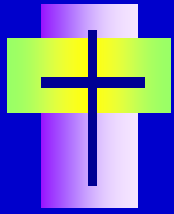
The Nestorian Heresy

- What is the root cause of the problem
- The main characters
- The council
- The ramifications



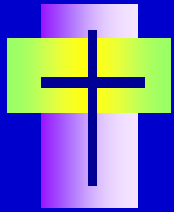
What is the scene

- First Council of Nicaea established the divinity of Christ
- Second council of Ephesus established the divinity of the Holy Spirit and re-iterated the creed of Nicaea
- We expect that everything is agreed upon and finalized



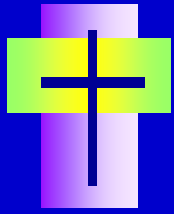
Why Heresies?

- Why Does God allow heresies?
- As we are learning more about God, He reveals to us more of Himself.
- Also, the devil wants us to stray away from knowing who is the true God.
- God still uses these Heresies to strengthen the faith and make more aware of who He is.



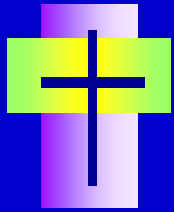
Progress of knowing God

- In the Old Testament: The Father was known. God was known as ONE, though many indications of the trinity
- When Christ came, He declared the second person of the Trinity. To explain to us His work in creation and salvation.
- When the Church started to grow, the Holy Spirit declared Himself to us.



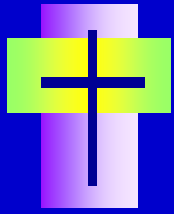
Who is Jesus Christ?

- This question is still being asked today
- Two main school of thoughts
 - Antiochian Theological School:
 - Starts from his Humanity and explain the divine aspect. Starts from the synoptic Gospels
 - Alexandrian Theological School:
 - Starts from His divinity and explains His human aspects. Start from St. John's Gospel



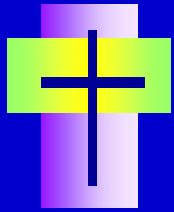
What did people think of Him

- “Whom say the people that I am?” Luke 9:18
- Since then the same question is being asked?
 - Is He the Father (Sabellius)
 - Subordinate to the Father? (Origen)
 - Is He fully Divine (no human aspect)
 - Is He fully Human (no divine aspect)
 - Man born of a virgin adopted by the LOGOS (adoptionist)



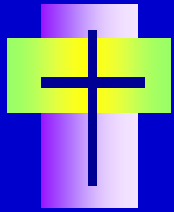
Man-Logos

- The Council of Nicaea says
“Was incarnate and became a man”
- What does incarnate mean?
- Who was in St. Mary’s womb?
- What is the nature of the union between
the Man and the Logos?



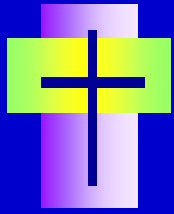
Options

- Jesus Christ is:
 - Logos + (body & Soul but no spirit)
(Apollinarius)
 - Logos + (body & Soul and Spirit)



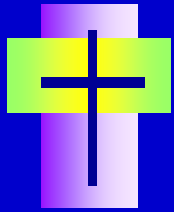
What did the Fathers say

- What was not assumed by the Logos was not saved.
- The soul is a reason for a lot of the sins, if it is not redeemed, how can Man as a whole be redeemed?
- Christ must had a FULL Humanity:
 - Body, Soul, Spirit



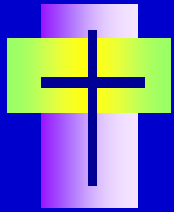
The type of Union

- What is the type of the relationship of the Logos to the Man Jesus?
 - Is Jesus a Temple for the Logos to dwell in?
 - This means, separate natures, separate wills, aligned together by agreement (conjoined) and is like two people in a dance



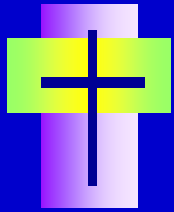
Nestorius

- He was an Antiochan monk (superior of a monastery) (c. 386 –c. 451 A.D.)
- He was a pupil of Theodore of Mopsuestia (Antioch).
- Selected to be The Patriarch of Constantinople (429 A.D.)



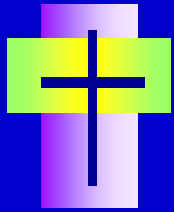
His Teaching

- You can not call St. Mary Theotokos (Mother of God)
- You must call her “Christotokos” or Mother of Christ.
- People raged and objected. He tried to use force and the authority of the king to spread his thoughts



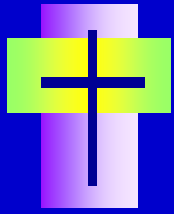
His thoughts

- Mary did not give birth to the divinity.
- The Logos chose the temple of Jesus to dwell in
- Both Humanity and divinity were joined in a relationship of mutual acceptance
- But the divinity is different than the Humanity
- You can not say that the Logos suffered, or died on the cross. It was the Man Jesus who did.
- You can not call a 3 months old, God.
- Two persons: Logos, God



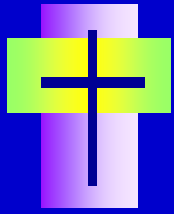
Outcome

- Who was the savior? The Logos or the Man?



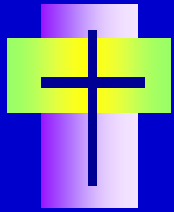
St. Cyril (376-444)

- Nephew of Pope Theophilus
- Became Pope after his uncle died (412 A.D.)
- Well learned in the Bible, history of the Church, rhetoric, and grammar.
- Did not agree with Nestorius and led the charge against him.



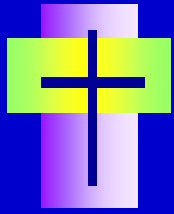
St. Cyril's view

- The Logos took to Himself a body. It became His
- The Logos became a man.
- This does not mean that the full humanity of Jesus his divinity were mixed or merged.
- From the womb of St. Mary the Divinity took to itself a body: flesh, soul, and spirit.
- There is One Person: The Logos.
- This union excludes division but does not eliminate difference



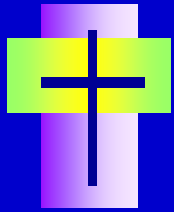
St. Cyril's view

- Jesus Christ is a single Person with two natures, fully divine and fully human
- It is not 2 natures working together in tandem but one nature that is consisting of two.
- You can not say Christ the Man and Logos the divinity. No one person Jesus Christ the Son of God.
- What we receive in communion is the true body and blood of Jesus Christ united with His divinity.
- The Son of God was born of Mary, The Son of God died on the Cross, the Son of God resurrected from the dead



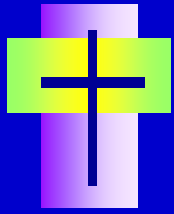
The council

- Each group tried to influence The emperor Theodosius II
- He finally called for a council in June 431.
- A large number of Bishops attended.
- Both St. Cyril and Nestorius were there
- Pope of Rome sent delegates.



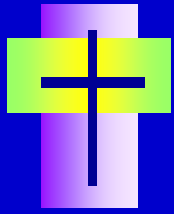
The Council

- John of Antioch was late in arriving.
- St. Cyril started the council without waiting for John of Antioch.
- He summoned Nestorius to attend
- Nestorius refused and some other 68 bishops.
- St. Cyril proceeded and read Nestorius letters.
They also read St. Cyril's second letter to Nestor
- The council rejected Nestorius teaching and excommunicated him



The dissenting council

- When John of Antioch arrived.
- He held his own council and excommunicated St. Cyril and Memnon of Ephesus.
- The imperial delegate, Count Candidian, did not know what to do, sent for instructions from the emperor.
- Emperor sent new delegates to investigate. They sided with St. Cyril and excommunicated Nestorius



Is it over?

- No Nestorianism is still alive.
- The Assyrian Church is a Nestorian Church.
- The problem is still being discussed today.
- It also led to 4th Ecumenical council of Chalcedon that split the church.