3. The Council of Ephesus (431) (or, a Tale of Two Cities): How are the two elements combined?

   a) Antioch, and Nestorius

   b) Alexandria, and Cyril

   c) Theodosius intervenes

4. The Council of Chalcedon (451): How to describe the nature of Christ?

   a) Eutyches: the "mixed" Christ

   b) Leo, Bishop of Rome

   c) The Chalcedon resolution

Any questions email

Core Seminars—Church History

Class 3: Constantine, Controversy & Councils (AD 312-500)

"What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us." II Timothy 1:13-14

I. INTRODUCTION – THE PROBLEM OF ERROR, AND AUTHORITY

II. CONSTANTINE AND IMPERIAL CHRISTIANITY

1. Constantine's "vision" and victory

2. The Edict of Milan (313) and toleration for Christianity

3. Was Constantine a true Christian?

   a) Pro……

   b) And Con……

4. Constantine's mixed legacy for the Church

III. THREE OTHER FATHERS

1. Ambrose of Milan

2. Jerome

3. Augustine of Hippo

IV. FOUR QUESTIONS, AND FOUR COUNCILS

In the midst of this political change, the church faced renewed questions of orthodox doctrine. These can be summarized in four questions, addressed in turn by four councils.

1. Is Christ divine?
2. Is Christ human?
3. If yes to both, how are the two elements combined?
4. What language or terms do we use to describe Him?

1. The Council of Nicea (325): Is Christ Divine?

a) Arianism – Christ not fully God

b) Alexander and Athanasius disagree

c) Constantine calls the Council

d) Athanasius' 3 grounds of defense

i. Scripture

ii. Logic of Salvation

iii. The "people"

2. The Council of Constantinople (381): Is Christ Human?

a) challenges to Nicea

a) Constantinople's answer

c) Church and State