

Council of Nicaea

325

First Ecumenical Council

- ✦ Convoked and underwritten by Constantine to settle Arian controversy
- ✦ From 250 to 318 bishops present, mostly Eastern
- ✦ Adopted a baptismal creed, probably from Jerusalem (by tradition, attributed to Eusebius)
- ✦ Affirmed Son is of *the same substance* (*homoousios*) as Father (5, then 2 dissenting)
- ✦ Creed included anathemas against Arian beliefs
- ✦ 20 canons formed basis for later church law
- ✦ Determined unified date for Easter
- ✦ Meletian schismatics' ordinations were to be re-ordained, though Meletius was suspended
- ✦ Identified patriarchal sees Rome, Antioch, and Alexandria; Jerusalem accorded special honor
- ✦ Permitted reconciliation of Novatianists (*cathari*), required [re]baptism of Paulianists
- ✦ Ended neither Arian conflict nor the schisms

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