Church History

The Great Church Councils

1. List three important church councils between the years A.D. 300 and 500 in order:

a. Council of Nicea

b. Council of Constantinople

c. Council of Chalcedon

A. Council of Nicea Year: 325

2. Who promoted an unorthodox view of Christ? Arius

3. Explain this view. Drawing on a pagan understanding of divine hierarchy, he explained that Jesus was a god created by God the Father with special power and a special work, but not the same or equal with God the Father.

4. What was the decision of the council concerning Arius and his views? Arianism was condemned as inaccurate and wrong.

5. What document was produced by this council? Nicene Creed (point out key phrases in creed)

B. Council of Constantinople Year\_\_381\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. What was the main issue in this council? Is Jesus also fully human? Is the Holy Spirit also fully God?

7. What was the conclusion? Yes, God is trinity—one being in three persons. And Jesus is fully human as well as fully divine

C. Council of Chalcedon Year\_\_\_451\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. The Council of Chalcedon affirmed the full deity and the full humanity of Christ.

9. The Council of Chalcedon affirmed the existence of two natures in Christ: the divine and the human.

10. The Council of Chalcedon agreed that while Christ had two natures, He is one person.

**Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son].  
With the Father and the Son  
he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. AMEN.