

1 Eastern Orthodoxy

2 Important Councils

- Eastern Orthodoxy was strongly influenced by several church councils, starting with the Council of Nicea in 325 and lasting until the late 700s
 - Many of these councils were centered on Christological controversies.
 - They were often highly politicized and controlled by the emperor.
 - They also influenced the western church.

3 Icons

- Icons are *images* of holy things, but not *portrayals*.
 - Icons are to be *venerated*, but not *worshipped*.
 - Icons should cause the viewer to worship or contemplate the reality behind the image.

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- The iconoclastic controversy
 - Some, called iconoclasts, began to feel that the icons were being worshipped, and began destroying icons.
 - A controversy erupted, with political and economic elements.
 - Iconoclasm was condemned at the last of the church councils in 787.

5 The Great Schism

- Disagreements between East and West grew.
 - A minor differences over a doctrinal statement
 - Liturgical practices
 - The authority of the pope
- The pope and leaders of the Eastern church excommunicated each other in 1054.
- The Orthodox Church remained supreme in most of Eastern Europe, especially Greece and Russia.