**Church History Outline 17: Eastern Orthodoxy**

1. 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.

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.

1. 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.

1. 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.

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