

Church History



Church History

- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21st century



The Ancient Church

- The Third Century was a time of massive crisis in the world

193-211 Septimus Severus becomes emperor

211- The new Severan dynasty causes turmoil

- After the death of Septimus Severus, two of his sons become co-emperors at the same time—Caracalla and Geta
 - Within a year, Caracalla assassinates Geta, as well as several other perceived enemies, bribing Roman soldiers to follow him blindly
- Ironically, Caracalla is himself assassinated by one of his own Praetorian guards (while urinating by the side of the road) in a conspiracy to make one of them his successor... who is then quickly assassinated himself when he doesn't give the Eastern Legions the bribes that Caracalla had promised them



The Ancient Church

- The Third Century was a time of massive crisis in the world

193-211 Septimus Severus becomes emperor

211- The new Severan dynasty causes turmoil

- After the death of Septimus Severus, two of his sons become co-emperors
- Caracalla's aunt maneuvers her favorite grandson—Elagabalus—into becoming Emperor
 - He was renowned for extravagance...
 - On a lark, he once smothered several of his guests at a dinner party by dumping tons of violets and roses on them from above
 - He forced a marriage onto one of the Vestal Virgins, in an attempt to undermine traditional family values in Rome



The Ancient Church

- The Third Century was a time of massive crisis in the world

193-211 Septimus Severus becomes emperor

211- The new Severan dynasty causes turmoil

- After the death of Septimus Severus, two of his sons become co-emperors
- Caracalla's aunt maneuvers her favorite grandson—Elagabalus—into becoming Emperor
 - He was renowned for extravagance...
 - He later married his own chariot driver—a male slave named Hierocles—who was officially declared the “husband of the Empress”
 - (Roman historian Cassius Dio said that he “delighted to be called the mistress, the wife, the Queen of Hierocles”)



The Ancient Church

- The Third Century was a time of massive crisis in the world

193-211 Septimus Severus becomes emperor

211- The new Severan dynasty causes turmoil

- After the death of Septimus Severus, two of his sons become co-emperors
- Caracalla's aunt maneuvers her favorite grandson—Elagabalus—into becoming Emperor
 - He was renowned for extravagance...
 - He also enjoyed dressing like a woman and prostituting himself not only in local bars, but also in the palace itself, standing nude in the doorway like Roman prostitutes did in their brothels
 - In fact, he offered half the royal treasury to any physician who could successfully give him women's genitals



The Ancient Church

- The Third Century was a time of massive crisis in the world

193-211 Septimus Severus becomes emperor

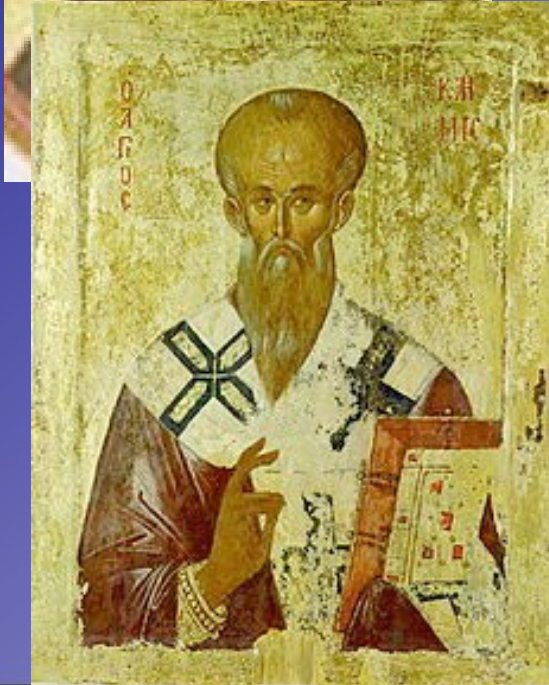
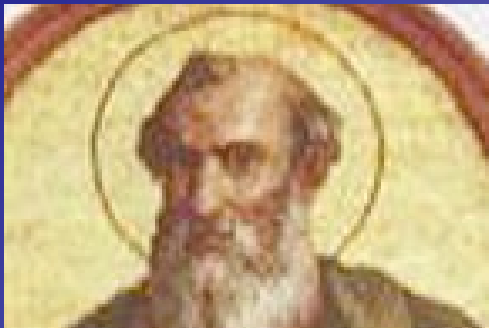
211- The new Severan dynasty causes turmoil

- After the death of Septimus Severus, two of his sons become co-emperors
- Caracalla's aunt maneuvers her favorite grandson—Elagabalus—into becoming Emperor
- The same aunt who installed Elagabalus helped to depose him—the Praetorians beheaded him and threw his body in the river—and placed his cousin, Alexander Severus, on the throne



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - His first official act was to demand absolute obedience from all other bishops, claiming supremacy based on Peter's papacy
 - He attempted to excommunicate any bishops who opposed him—including those who believed that Christian Paschal services should coincide with the Jewish Passover (i.e.; the Quartodecimans, or “Fourteeners”)
 - When excommunication failed, he apparently resorted to the assassination of his opponents, including—according to some historians—Clement of Alexandria



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - His first official act was to demand absolute obedience from all other bishops, claiming supremacy based on Peter's papacy
 - He attempted to excommunicate any bishops who opposed him—including those who believed that Christian Paschal services should coincide with the Jewish Passover
 - He also required that all church services and administrative activities be carried out in his own native *Latin* (having been born in North Africa) instead of in Greek



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - In the first quarter of the third century, Tertullian wrote several books and clarified multiple elements of orthodox doctrine (note: he was *staunchly* anti-Platonic, and thought that the Greek philosophers were arch-heretics that should be avoided when formulating theology)



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - In the first quarter of the third century, Tertullian wrote several books and clarified multiple elements of orthodox doctrine
 - 1) Unlike Origen, he taught that the soul was not pre-existent, not created *en masse* with all of the other souls at the beginning of time
 - Each soul is, in fact, derived from extracts from the mother and father, like a “spiritual DNA”



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - In the first quarter of the third century, Tertullian wrote several books and clarified multiple elements of orthodox doctrine
 - 1) Unlike Origen, he taught that the soul was not pre-existent
 - 2) The soul is thus born—*genetically*—in bondage to Satan, as the “sin nature” is passed down from parent to child
 - Irenaeus had said that all humans somehow share Adam's guilt, but it was Tertullian who first clarified the concept of a “genetic” form of “original sin,” passed down through the generations



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - In the first quarter of the third century, Tertullian wrote several books and clarified multiple elements of orthodox doctrine
 - 1) Unlike Origen, he taught that the soul was not pre-existent
 - 2) The soul is thus born—*genetically*—in bondage to Satan
 - 3) Thus, we cannot *accept* the Holy Spirit until we have *renounced* that bondage to Satan through baptism
 - We can *then* begin to be saved as we actively renounce our sins through penance
- (Baptism → Good Works → Salvation)
(Salvation → Baptism → Good Works)



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - In the first quarter of the third century, Tertullian wrote several books and clarified multiple elements of orthodox doctrine
 - 4) Thus, morality must be absolute—any *continued* sin *after* baptism is not *necessarily* forgiven
 - Sins such as murder and adultery are *never* forgivable
 - We should strive for celibacy, since orgasms discharge portions of one's “very soul”
 - The theater, makeup and jewelry, secular music, etc., are *inherently* sinful, and must be avoided



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - In the first quarter of the third century, Tertullian wrote several books and clarified multiple elements of orthodox doctrine
 - 5) Tertullian was the first to specifically use the word, “Trinity,” when describing God's nature, referring to “Three Persons with One Substance”
 - (Note: this was actually not that much different from what Valentinus had taught about the “three-ness” of God a full generation earlier)
 - The Son is subordinate to the Father (as *any* son is)



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - In the first quarter of the third century, Tertullian wrote several books and clarified multiple elements of orthodox doctrine
 - 6) In attacking Marcionism (which taught that YAHWEH was a *naughty* god from the Jewish Scriptures and Jesus was a good god from the Christian Scriptures), Tertullian actually coined the terms “Old” Testament and “New” Testament (even though Marcion had come up with the basic concept)



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - In the first quarter of the third century, Tertullian wrote several books and clarified multiple elements of orthodox doctrine
 - 7) He also specifically picked up on and expanded upon Irenaeus' teaching that, in Communion, the bread is truly the fleshly body of Christ, and the wine is truly the tangible blood of Christ—and that we must continue to *ingest* Christ's body in order to stay *connected* to Christ's Body



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - In short, Tertullian is generally considered by most church historians to be “the Father of the Latin Church”
 - Interestingly, in his later life, he converted to Montanism—a sect which taught that the Holy Spirit was still sharing new *gnosis* that people needed to hear and learn in order to be saved
 - Only the truly *spiritual* people—who fasted and prayed enough to see God's new visions—could slough off the sinfulness of this material world and thus be saved



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - In short, Tertullian is generally considered by most church historians to be “the Father of the Latin Church”
 - Interestingly, in his later life, he converted to Montanism—a sect which taught that the Holy Spirit was still sharing new *gnosis* that people needed to hear and learn in order to be saved
 - Because of this and his (perceivedly nearly Arian) perspective on the subordination of the Son to the Father, though his writings created the *foundations* for Catholicism, the Catholic Church now officially denounces him



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - Pope Zephyrinus took over after Victor's death, when the Church was being pounded down by Septimus Severus and his persecutions, but also being torn apart from *within*



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - Pope Zephyrinus took over after Victor's death
 - Theodotus of Byzantium taught that Melchizedek (see Hebrews 5-7) was a prophet to the angels in Heaven, and Jesus had been a prophet to humans on Earth
 - God is *One*, not a *Pantheon*, so either...
 - 1) *Modalism*—as Sabellius taught, God revealed Himself to humanity in three stages or “modes” (the Father in Creation, the Son in Redemption, and the Spirit in Sanctification and Regeneration)



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - Pope Zephyrinus took over after Victor's death
 - Theodotus of Byzantium taught that Melchizedek (see Hebrews 5-7) was a prophet to the angels in Heaven, and Jesus had been a prophet to humans on Earth
 - God is *One*, not a *Pantheon*, so either...
 - 1) *Modalism*
 - 2) *Adoptionism*—as Theodotus taught, God granted “divinity” upon a human (but perfect) Jesus at His baptism (or at His ascension), allowing Him to carry out His prophetic ministry using God's divine power



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - Pope Zephyrinus took over after Victor's death
 - Theodotus of Byzantium taught that Melchizedek (see Hebrews 5-7) was a prophet to the angels in Heaven, and Jesus had been a prophet to humans on Earth
 - Theodotus and several others (who had all been excommunicated by Pope Victor) convinced a practising confessor named Natalis to be ordained as the *real* Bishop of Rome—creating the first (but not the last) *anti*-pope, in competition with Zephyrinus
 - Tradition says that Natalis was plagued by visions and scourged by angels all night until he tearfully recanted before Zephyrinus in sackcloth and ashes



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - Pope Zephyrinus took over after Victor's death
 - **Manicheanism emerged in the East**
 - The prophet Mani was born in Persia to a Messianic Jewish family
 - They were from a sect who accepted Jesus as a great Jewish prophet, but not the Son of God
 - Their leader, Alcibiades, had seen the Son of God—and he was 96 miles tall
 - In the third year of Emperor Trajan's reign (100 AD), the Son of God had given to them a new gospel and a new set of special baptisms that forgave all sins



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - Pope Zephyrinus took over after Victor's death
 - **Manicheanism emerged in the East**
 - The prophet Mani was born in Persia to a Messianic Jewish family
 - Mani's message blended elements of this sect with Judaism, Christianity, and Persian Zoroastrianism, to form a *new* religion
 - Much like Zoroaster had taught in the 6th century BC, Mani taught that the world was being fought over by two celestial powers—a good but not omnipotent God, and an evil and nearly equal Satan
 - The world and the human soul are the battleground for this epic struggle



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - Pope Zephyrinus took over after Victor's death
 - **Manicheanism emerged in the East**
 - The prophet Mani was born in Persia to a Messianic Jewish family
 - Mani's message blended elements of this sect with Judaism, Christianity, and Persian Zoroastrianism, to form a *new* religion
 - There *is* no “problem of evil,” because God didn't *make* evil—or even *us*
 - And he explained why we have conflicting natures—because we're a little bit YAHWEH and a little bit Satan
 - How similar does this sound to how many unchurched people—especially in Hollywood—see Christianity today?



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - Pope Zephyrinus took over after Victor's death
 - **Manicheanism emerged in the East**
 - The prophet Mani was born in Persia to a Messianic Jewish family
 - Mani's message blended elements of this sect with Judaism, Christianity, and Persian Zoroastrianism, to form a *new* religion
 - **The Gospel of Mani—and its religion—**caught on in the Middle East and quickly spread—making use of Christian structures like twelve Apostles, regional bishops, local elders, etc.—as far east as China, and as far west as Britain



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - Pope Zephyrinus took over after Victor's death
 - **Manicheanism emerged in the East**
 - The prophet Mani was born in Persia to a Messianic Jewish family
 - Mani's message blended elements of this sect with Judaism, Christianity, and Persian Zoroastrianism, to form a *new* religion
 - **The Gospel of Mani—and its religion—**caught on in the Middle East and quickly spread
 - Roman soldiers saw it as a “warrior's version” of Christianity and gravitated to it, spreading it among the Legions
 - Even St. Augustine began as a Manichean, before his conversion



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Christian Church was involved in a fair amount of turmoil at this time as well
 - Pope Victor I became bishop of Rome
 - This afforded new opportunities for a young *Latin*-speaking theologian named Tertullian
 - Pope Zephyrinus took over after Victor's death
 - **Manicheanism emerged in the East**
 - The prophet Mani was born in Persia to a Messianic Jewish family
 - Mani's message blended elements of this sect with Judaism, Christianity, and Persian Zoroastrianism, to form a *new* religion
 - The Gospel of Mani—and its religion—caught on in the Middle East and quickly spread
 - Within a few short years, it became the dominant, “up-and-coming” religion, growing faster and farther than Christianity



The Ancient Church

- The Third Century was a time of massive crisis in the world
 - 193-211 Septimus Severus becomes emperor
 - 211-235 The new Severan dynasty causes turmoil
 - After having tried to *bribe* the Germanic tribes not to invade Gaul rather than fight them off himself, Emperor Alexander Severus is finally killed by his own troops in Germany in 235
 - They name Maximinus Thrax—an old, low-born warhorse of a soldier who had worked his way up through the ranks—to be the next emperor
 - This sets off what's called the “Crisis of the Third Century,” with upwards of 25 different emperors vying for the control of Rome over the next 50 years, and the Roman world devolves into chaos

