

Article Title— "The A.D. 325 Council of Nicea"

Article Category— The Visible Church

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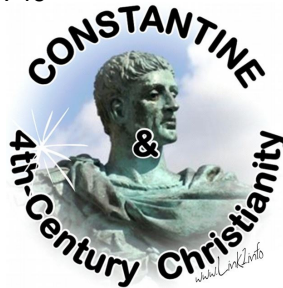
Constantine and his co-Emperor, Licinius, issued the Edict of Milan in 313, declaring tolerance of all religions. Seeking to unify his empire and to make Christianity more palatable to the predominately Pagan population, he "hybridized" the holy days and other religious practices of Christians and Pagans. "Sun Day" was the Pagan day of sun worship.

A life-long sun-worshiper, Constantine claimed Christianity for political gain. (Sound familiar?) He observed that the *church* at Rome was haphazardly organized and had gained little to no control over the widely scattered Christianity adherents. Through his skillful manipulation of the A.D. 325 dialog at the Council of Nicea, Constantine succeeded in convincing pompous would-be *church* leaders that they'd benefit enormously from his well known financial and political savvy. He assured them that organizing for control would include the need for their followers to have some "\$kin" in the game.

He quickly lured those clerics by the very phenomenon Paul had warned about three centuries earlier:

- > "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. **but thou O man of God**, flee these things..." —1 Timothy 6:10,11

What followed was that "The popes filled the place of the vacant emperors at Rome, inheriting their power, their prestige, and their titles from paganism." —Stanley's History, p. 40



It is unfortunate that, after the Reformation, Protestant groups quickly adopted and adapted the business model the Romans have used ever since that A.D. 325 gathering. Because "money talks," several of those Protestant organizations soon amassed political power, too. Like the Roman *church*, accountable to no one, those Protestant *churches* have also become a lot like a manufacturer of lubricants that uses all or almost all of its output to lubricate the machinery with which it manufactures lubricants.

The Popes and their pompous parades of pious pretenders clearly patterned themselves after the 1st-Century scribes and Pharisees:

- > "But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, [even] Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no [man] your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven." —Jesus, at Matthew 23:5-8

Was Peter the first Catholic Pope? Read **Matthew 23:9** and **Acts 10:26** to learn what's true and what's new about that. Follow this link to more info on this topic: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_1615423ba4944c6db3064d633d00eeb4.pdf

A wonderful blessing of informed Christianity is the easy destruction of profoundly popular proclamations by purely scriptural and historical facts.

—T. C. Newsome

PS: To participate in Bible discussions about articles like this one – or to just read and enjoy them – join us at TC's Friends Club. Here's the hot link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/>

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens

