

# Who is the Head of the Church?

Historical Theology in the First Half of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century

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## INTRODUCTION: THE MAIN QUESTION OF CIRCA 1001 TO 1054

### Colossians 1:15-18a (ESV)

“**15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by[f] him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church.”

### Ephesians 5:22-24 (ESV)

“**22** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”

### Four groups vie for head of the church in the former Roman Empire.

1. Patriarchate of Rome
2. Patriarchate of Constantinople
3. Western Nobles
4. Eastern Nobles

## I. CLASH OF THE PATRIARCHATES

ISSUE	ROME	CONSTANTINOPLE
CHURCH STRUCTURE		
	Hierarchy	Autocephalous
	The global church is complete.	Each local church is complete.
	The Pope is Peter's representative.	Each Christian is Peter's representative.
	Priests celibate	Priests have families.
LITURGY		
	Latin	Greek
	Include Filioque Clause	Do not include Filioque Clause
	Unleavened bread	Leavened bread only

## A. PREVIOUS CONFLICTS

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### 1. ICONOCLASM

### 2. PHOTIAN SCHISM

## B. GREAT SCHISM

### 1. THE ROLE OF THE ROMAN PATRIARCH

#### a. Rome's View

The Roman Patriarch (Pope) is the primary bishop and all the other bishops are subject to him..

#### b. Constantinople's View

Each local body of believers constitutes a complete church. Meaning that the Patriarchate of Constantinople while respectful of Rome was not subject to Rome

### 2. WHAT CONSTITUTES "THE CHURCH"

#### a. Rome's View

The church is a global organism with the Patriarch of Rome as it's head.

#### b. Constantinople's View

Each local body of believers constitutes a complete church. Meaning that the Patriarchate of Constantinople while respectful of Rome was not subject to Rome because it was autocephalus also it was willing to allow various national churches to rule themselves since they constituted a complete church.

### 3. MUTUAL EXCOMMUNICATION

#### a. A Long Time Coming

Many of these issues creating tension between East and West had been developing over a long time when both saw cooperation as more beneficial to get along. However, near the end of Pope Leo IX's life he thought the Patriarch of Constantinople, Michael I Cerularius, might be taking advantage of conflict in the West to take the position of primacy away from Rome and bring it to Constantinople.

#### b. Legates Sent

In response to a letter sent by Michael I Serularius, condemning some of the practices of the western church, Pope Leo IX sent a group of legates headed by Humbert of Mourmoutiers to Constantinople. When the conversation began to breakdown between Humbert and Serularius Humbert excommunicated Serularius and in response Serularius excommunicated all the the legate.

While really fairly minor in some senses these actions effectively cut off communication between the leaders of the East and West.

## II. THE IMPORTANCE OF INVESTITURE

Investiture: the act of appointing a bishop of the church.

### A. CONFLICT OVER WHO APPOINTS BISHOPS

1. Bishops often had territories that included lands which provided them with revenue. Whoever appointed the bishop determined who collected the revenue.

2. If there was no bishop appointed then the king of that region would collect and hold the

revenues until a bishop was appointed, but often the back income was never relinquished and at times the kings would stall the appointment process for years.

3. These issues were only really developing at the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> century mostly in the form of minor meddling by minor nobles in very local church affairs, but eventually they will develop into a direct conflict between the Holy Roman Emperor and the Pope.

### III. RECLAIMING BULGARIA

A. Bulgaria had been granted autocephalous status by the Patriarch of Constantinople in 927 AD and had been partially removed from control by the Byzantine Empire, but by the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century Emperor Basil II Porphyrogenitus had set his sights on reclaiming territory that used to belong to him including Bulgaria.

B. In 1018 Basil II had conquered most of Bulgaria and demoted the Patriarchate of Bulgaria to the Archbishopric of Ohrid. Ultimately this changed very little for the church in Bulgaria as it was mostly a bid for power over the church by the emperor much like the investiture controversy.

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