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Christian History Made Easy (Rose Bible Basics)

11. What You Should Know About Christian History, 376–664

A reference list, not an argument. It gathers the key events, people, and terms of this era, when the church fought to define exactly who Jesus was — fully God and fully human, one person with two natures.

Key takeaways

- Four general councils in this span nailed down Christ's nature: Constantinople I (381) rejected Apollinarianism, Ephesus (431) condemned Nestorius, Chalcedon (451) affirmed one person with two natures, and Constantinople II (553) revisited the fight.
- The debates turned on how Christ's divine and human natures relate: Apollinarianism denied him a human mind, Monophysitism said his divinity swallowed his humanity, Nestorianism split him into two persons. The church rejected all three.
- Theodosius made Christianity the empire's official religion (391).

- Key figures shaped the era's theology and mission: Augustine of Hippo, Benedict (Western monasticism), Columba and Augustine of Canterbury (missions), and Gregory (first to hold near-'pope' status).
- Pelagius was condemned for teaching people can please God by natural ability alone.