Davis, The First Seven Ecumenical Councils Wesley Advocates

Chapter 4 8 December 2019

After the Councils of Nicaea in 325 and Constantinople in 381 CE, what major issues about church dogma and organization do you imagine were settled? How?

When did the Council of Ephesus occur, and who called it? About how many clergy attended? Who chaired the meeting? Who are the Antiochenes and who are the Niocenes?

Briefly summarize Nestorius's position about the Mother of God with regard to theotokos and Christotokos. What about the consubstantiality of God and Christ? Of God and Jesus? Of the two natures of Jesus?

Briefly summarize Cyril's position about the Mother of God with regard to *theotokos* and *Christotokos*. What about the consubstantiality of God and Christ? Of God and Jesus? Of the two natures of Jesus?

How does Nestorianism differ from Roman Catholic dogma? What was the Nestorian Schism? What happened to Nestorianism after the Council of Ephesus?

What is a *prosopon*? How does it differ from *hypostasis*? What is the difference between conjunction and union when we discuss the nature of Jesus? Why are these terms important to our understanding of, say, an impassible Christ? Do we care?

Where was Cyril bishop? Where was Nestorius bishop? How do their conflicts reflect a typical power struggle in the early church? Which appealed more successfully to the bishop of Rome? Why? How did Cyril use bribes effectively?

Cyril wrote three famous letters to Nestorius: what points of essential dogma did he contend Nestorius must accept to remain bishop and avoid excommunication? What 12 propositions did he append to Letter 3 and insist on? What were his 12 Anathemas?

What is the role of John of Antioch in this power struggle?

Name two or three (or ten) irregularities about the way this Council met and did business. How many sessions occurred? Why so many?

Ultimately the Council denounced Nestorius as a heretic. Why? In what ways did the Council at Ephesus maintain the findings at Nicaea and Constantinople? In what ways did this council extend church dogma?

What heresies did this Council address?

Ultimately, what happened to the main players at Ephesus—Cyril, Memnon, Nestorius, Theodosius II, John of Antioch?