

READING ESSENTIALS AND STUDY GUIDE 10-3

The Spread of Christian Ideas *For use with pages 358–364*

Key Terms

icon: picture or image of Jesus, Mary (the mother of Jesus), and the saints (Christian holy people) (page 359)

iconoclast: someone who attacks traditional beliefs or institutions (page 360)

excommunicate: to say that a person or group no longer belongs to the church (page 361)

schism: a separation or split (page 361)

monastery: a place where men called monks live together in a religious community (page 362)

missionary: person who teaches religion to those who do not believe (page 363)

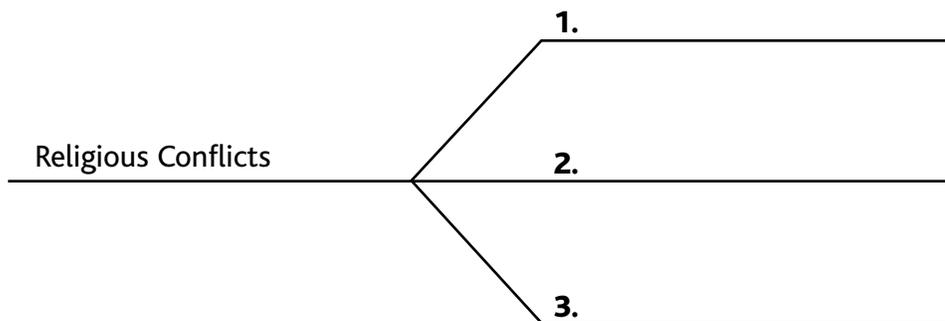
Drawing From Experience

Have you ever lost a friend because each of you believed in two different things? How did that make you feel?

The last section described how Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire and how early churches developed. In this section, you will learn how the church was divided and how Christian ideas spread.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram to help you take notes. List the religious conflicts that led to the split between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church.



READING ESSENTIALS AND STUDY GUIDE 10-3 (continued)**The Byzantine Church** (*pages 359–361*)

Main Idea Church and government worked closely together in the Byzantine Empire.

As you know, the fall of the Western Roman Empire did not stop the church of Rome. The pope became the strongest leader in Western Europe. Latin churches of the area became known as the Roman Catholic Church. In the East, however, the Roman Empire continued. It became the Byzantine Empire. Like Roman Catholics in the West, the Byzantines created their own form of Christianity. It was based on their Greek heritage and was known as the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Church and State Church and government worked closely together in the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantines believed their emperor symbolized Jesus Christ on Earth. The emperor was given a crown in a religious ceremony.

The emperor controlled the Church and the government. He chose the patriarch, or person who would rule Constantinople and lead the Church in the Byzantine Empire. Byzantines believed that God wanted them to protect and spread Christianity. All Church and government officials agreed with this goal.

Religious Arguments All Byzantines were interested in religious matters. In homes and shops, they argued about religious questions. For example, Byzantines loved to discuss the exact relationship between Jesus and God.

In the A.D. 700s, a major argument separated the Church in the Byzantine Empire. The argument was over the use of **icons**. Icons are pictures or images of Jesus, Mary (the mother of Jesus), and the saints, or Christian holy people. Many people put them all over the walls of their churches. A few important icons were even believed to work miracles.

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Some Byzantines wanted to end the use of icons. They believed that people were worshipping the icons as idols or false gods. People who supported icons believed that they were symbols of God in daily life. They also felt that icons helped explain Christianity to people.

Emperor Leo III did not agree with icons. In A.D. 726, he ordered all icons to be taken out of the churches. Government officials who took the icons were known as **iconoclasts** or image breakers. We use this word today to mean someone who attacks traditional beliefs or institutions.

Most Byzantines, many church leaders, and even the pope in Rome disagreed with the emperor's order. In fact, the argument over icons ruined the relationship between the churches of Rome and Constantinople. Over the next 100 years, the argument died down, and the use of icons returned. They are still an important part of Eastern Orthodox religious practice.

Conflicts Between Churches Icons were not the only reason for arguments between the churches of Constantinople and Rome. The most serious argument was about how churches should be organized. The pope said that he was the head of all the Christian churches. The Byzantines did not agree with this. They believed the patriarch of Constantinople and other bishops were equal to the pope.

Also, sometimes one church would not help the other when they were attacked from outside. This only made problems worse. In the late A.D. 700s when Italy was invaded, the Byzantine emperor refused to help the pope. So, the pope asked a Germanic group called the Franks to help. The Franks were Roman Catholics and loyal to the pope.

The pope was thankful to the Franks for stopping the invasion. In A.D. 800, he gave the Frankish king, Charlemagne, the title of emperor. This made the Byzantines angry. They felt the leader of the Byzantines was the only true emperor.

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This conflict showed the different ways that the churches dealt with the government. In the Byzantine Empire, the emperor was in control, and church leaders respected his ideas. In Rome, however, the pope claimed both spiritual and political power. He often argued with kings over church and government matters.

Finally, after hundreds of years of strain, the pope and the leader of Constantinople made a huge decision. In A.D. 1054, they **excommunicated** each other. This means they stated that the other group did not belong to the church anymore. This began a **schism**, or separation, of the two most important branches of Christianity. The split between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches has lasted to this day.

4. Why did Byzantines place the authority for the government and for the church in one person?
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Christian Ideas Spread (pages 361–364)

Main Idea Christians found new communities and spread their faith to various parts of Europe.

After the fall of Rome, the people of Western Europe were confused. Christianity helped them find the order and unity they wanted. It spread quickly into what used to be parts of the Roman Empire. It also brought new ways of thinking and living to these areas.

What Are Monasteries? During the A.D. 300s, a new kind of religious group formed in the Eastern Roman Empire. Men called monks lived together in religious communities called **monasteries**. Monasteries were built near cities and in far away areas.

Anthony was one of the earliest monks. He organized a monastery in the deserts of Egypt. Monks tried to live a

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spiritual life away from the temptations of the world. Many also tried to do good deeds and be examples of how Christians should live. Women soon followed the monks' example and created groups of their own. These women were called nuns, and they lived in convents.

In the early A.D. 400s, a Roman woman named Paula built churches, a hospital, and a convent. When her husband died, she gave up her money and went to Palestine. She also helped a scholar named Jerome rewrite the Hebrew and Greek Bible in Latin.

A bishop called Basil wrote a list of rules for monks and nuns to follow. This list, called the Basilian Rule, became the guide for Eastern Orthodox religious life.

In the West, an Italian monk named Benedict wrote another set of rules for monks. Monks who followed the Benedictine Rule gave up their belongings, lived simply, and spent their time in work and prayer. Like Basil's rule in the East, Benedict's rule became the standard for monks and nuns in the West. Basilian and Benedictine communities are still around today.

Monks and nuns began to play important roles in Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox life. They ran hospitals and schools, and helped the poor. They also helped protect Greek and Roman writings. One important job was to be **missionaries**. Missionaries teach their religion to those who do not believe.

Christianity Spreads North Two brothers, Cyril and Methodius, were very successful Byzantine missionaries. They brought Christian teachings to people in Eastern Europe called the Slavs.

About A.D. 863, Cyril invented a new alphabet. He wanted the Christian message to be in the Slavic languages. He believed that people would be more interested in Christianity if they could worship and read the Bible in their own languages. He based the Cyrillic alphabet on Greek letters. It is still used today by Russians, Ukrainians, Serbs, and Bulgarians.

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Eastern Orthodox missionaries traveled in northern lands that bordered the Byzantine Empire. At the same time, other missionaries from Rome were also busy.

Christianity Spreads West In the West, Christian missionaries looked to the islands of Britain and Ireland. In the A.D. 300s, Roman soldiers that were in Britain were called back to Rome to fight against Germanic invaders. When they left, Britain was opened to attack by others.

Starting in the A.D. 400s, Britain was invaded by tribes from what are today known as Germany and Denmark. These people were the Angles and the Saxons. They came together as the Anglo-Saxons. They built communities and set up several small kingdoms. The southern part of Britain soon became known as Angleland, or England.

While invading Britain, the Angles and Saxons pushed out the people already living there. These people were called the Celts. Some Celts fled to the mountains of Britain. Others went to Ireland.

A priest named Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland. He set up a lot of monasteries and churches. Over the next centuries, Irish monks played an important role in protecting Christian and Roman learning.

The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Britain were slower than Ireland to accept Christianity. In A.D. 567, Pope Gregory I sent about 40 monks from Rome to take Christianity to England.

The missionaries persuaded Ethelbert, the ruler of the English kingdom of Kent, to believe in Christianity. Ethelbert allowed the missionaries to build a church in his capital city of Canterbury. In about 100 years, most of England was Christian. Today, Canterbury is still an important center of Christianity in England.

- 5.** Why were people open to Christianity after the fall of Rome?
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