

THE COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE 3

Date: November 7—September 681 AD – Held in Constantinople in Asia Minor (Modern day, Istanbul, Turkey)

Organizer: Emperor Constantine IV called for this council and 174 bishops were in attendance

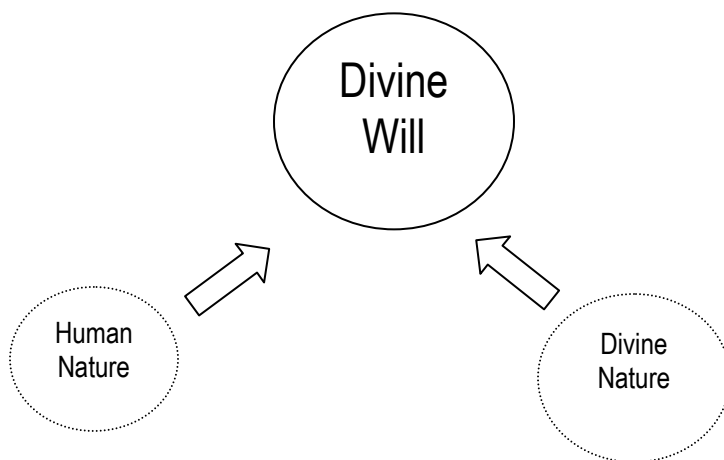
The Significance: At stake once again, was the humanity of Jesus. The issue this time revolved around his will.

The Person charged with heresy: Patriarch Sergius of Constantinople upheld what was known as monotheletism.

The Issue: The main issue revolved around the validity of a human will. Sergius and the Oriental churches taught that Jesus though he had two natures (established at Chalcedon), he only had one will. This was contrary to the orthodox interpretation of Christology (the study of Christ)

The Argument of Monotheletism

1. Monotheletism was a compromise to the ruling at Chalcedon which upheld orthodoxy and ruled that Jesus had two natures, completely human and divine.
2. It affirmed that Jesus had two natures—but that he operated according to one will
3. That one will was understood as divine since Jesus was God
4. In the battle of wills—the divine overrides the human
5. Otherwise, the human will and the divine would be in conflict since God is perfect and humanity is not



6. Biblical Support:

7. Divine will:

- a. Jesus always existed (John 8:58)
- b. Jesus knew all things (John 16:30, 21:17)
- c. Jesus held all things together {omnipotent} (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17)
- d. Jesus left the world (John 16:28)—but is with us always (Matthew 28:20).

Established Orthodoxy

1. Jesus consisted of two natures, which meant he had two separate wills
2. Though the human and the divine will were separate; they were not in conflict with each other.
3. Instead mysteriously they worked together in harmony.
4. To deny that Jesus had a human will was to deny that he had a human nature, or was truly man.
5. Biblical Support
 - a. Human will:
 - Jesus was born of a woman (Matthew 1:25)
 - Jesus grew in knowledge (Luke 2:52; Mark 13:32)
 - Jesus grew hungry and tired (Matthew 4:2, 8:24;
 - Jesus died for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3)
 - b. Divine will:
 - Jesus always existed (John 8:58)
 - Jesus knew all things (John 16:30, 21:17)
 - Jesus held all things together {omnipotent} (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17)
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The Ruling

Monotheletism was determined to be heresy and the orthodoxy of the Christian church (Nicea and Chalcedon) was upheld as true. The council concluded that though Christ has two natures—this does not mean he is two separate persons like Nestorianism taught. What we cannot explain is not impossible—but a mystery.

Practical Application

1. Jesus was every bit as human as you were and he willed to grow as a person.
2. Jesus can relate to your physical pain, emotional pain, hunger, fatigue, limited understanding, and his body experienced the same temptations as you.
3. Jesus shows us we can willingly serve God effectively despite our human shortcomings.