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To Jesus Through Mary

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Per. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Eighth Grade Religion Test Chapter 3: Written Section Worksheet

1. Why is the fourth century a turning point for the Christian movement?

The fourth century is a turning point because in 303 the worst persecution of the Jesus movement by the Roman government was underway. In 313 with Constantine's Edict of Milan the 250 years of Roman state sponsored persecution came to an end. Christianity was now legal. In the course of the 4<sup>th</sup> century Christianity with the emperor Theodosius I will become the official state religion and then the one and only legal religion when paganism is outlawed.

2. What were the three pluses of the new legalization of Christianity by Constantine in 313?

- The government gave land and money for the building of churches.
- The church became tax exempt; clergy were excused from military service.
- Bishops were appointed to local governmental offices.

What was the major negative of this new legalization of Christianity by Constantine in 313?

The emperors wanted to treat the Church as just another department of their government so there was a loss of freedom to preach and teach as Jesus preached and taught.

3. The Fathers of the Church

- a. What is an Apostolic Father?

An Apostolic Father is a church father who either personally knew one of the Apostles or was taught by an immediate successor of one of the Apostles.

- b. What is an Apologist?

An Apologist is a defender of the faith. They in their teachings and writings explained why they choose to be followers of Jesus. They explained what the Jesus movement was all about.

4. The Teachings of St. Augustine of Hippo

- a. Original Sin is man's powerlessness to be the friend of God without God's help.
- b. Free Will is the choice we have to either accept or reject the offer of God's friendship.
- c. Grace is God giving us everything we need in order to be His friends. We just have to accept his grace freely given.
- d. Baptism washes away Original Sin in the sense that I have made a fundamental choice for God by saying, "Yes I want to accept God's grace in my life. I accept God's help in becoming His friend."

5. The Great Councils (For each council explain the heresy and explain the dogma defined.)

a. Nicaea

Heresy: Arius is the priest from Alexandria in Egypt. He teachings that Jesus is not divine and during the Incarnation God did not become man. His teaching is called Arianism.

Dogma: Athansius was the champion of the Council of Nicaea. He helped the Council to write the Nicene Creed which says that Jesus is one in being with Father; God from God, light from light, true God from true God. Therefore Jesus is divine and at the Incarnation, God did become man.

b. Ephesus

Heresy: Nestorius, the bishop of Constantinople was teaching that Jesus was 2 persons. He was a divine person and a human person. His divine person was housed in his human person.

Dogma: The Council of Ephesus declared that Jesus is one person with two natures. Jesus has a fully divine nature and a fully human nature. Mary is the Theotokos, the God-bearer; the Mother of God.

c. Chalcedon

Heresy: An old monk from Constantinople named Eutyches was teaching that Jesus' human nature was absorbed by his divine nature; therefore Jesus was not fully human.

Dogma: The Council reaffirmed the Council of Ephesus, stating that Jesus is one person with 2 natures. Jesus is fully divine and fully human.

7. Explain the Trinity.

When we say God is a Trinity we mean that God is triune. That is we believe that there is one God who has revealed Himself as Three Persons. The Second Person of the Trinity has 2 natures. The Second Person of the Trinity was incarnated in Jesus and Jesus has two natures; fully divine and fully human. The three Persons are:

-- Creator who we call Father (created to be God's friends).

-- Savior (became a man to show us how to live in friendship with God) we call the Son was incarnated in Jesus who is fully divine and fully human.

-- Sanctifier (to sanctify means to make holy/helps us to become God's friends today) we call the Holy Spirit.