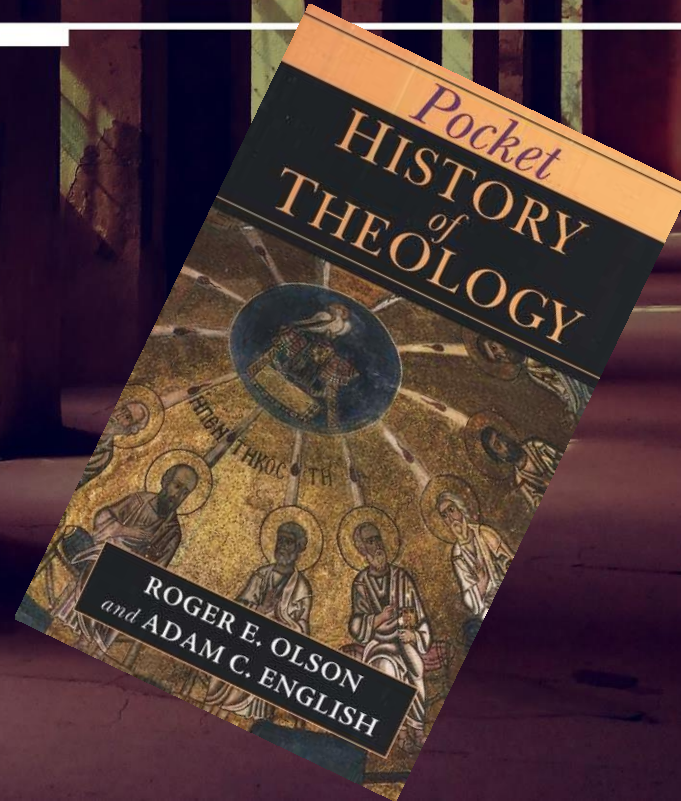


CHURCH HISTORY

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The Great East/West Split

- **By the 10th century eastern churches increasingly saw the bishop of Rome as illegitimately setting himself as pope/father over all other bishops.**
- **The Eastern church believed every orthodox bishop was a true successor of Peter and considered the bishops of Rome, Constantinople, Antioch, Alexandria and Jerusalem as equal in dignity, power and authority.**

The Great East/West Split

- The eastern churches objected to “and the Son” (*filioque*) being added to the Nicene Creed.
- The original 381 version did not have “and the Son” (*filioque*) after the portion in which the Holy Spirit is said to proceed from the Father.

Nicene Creed

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father **(and the Son - *filioque*)**. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

Protestants ended up agreeing with the Catholics on this one, which is why we still see it in our version of the Nicene Creed.

The Great East/West Split

- **The east said the west had no right to alter the creed of Christendom.**
- **They argued that this change revealed a significant theological difference in understanding the Trinity.**
- **The west felt that this additional clause protected the church from mystical insights unrelated to the person of Jesus.**

The Great East/West Split

- **Alongside of these issues the east and the west were becoming increasingly divided politically.**
- **Therefore, in 1054 the churches in the east and west excommunicated each other and accused each other of heresy.**
- **The divide has never been healed.**

Scholastic Theology

- **Scholastic theology gradually came to dominate Christian thinking around 1100.**
- **It was an attempt to demonstrate that Christian theology was rationally consistent with the philosophical ideas within medieval Europe.**

Scholastic Theology

- **To illustrate this we will look at two scholastic theologians and how they applied their logic to the doctrine of the atonement (“reconciliation”).**
- **How were God and humanity reconciled in Jesus Christ’s death on the cross?**

Atonement

- **The predominant theory of the Atonement, prior to 1000, was the Ransom theory.**
- **Christ death on the cross was necessary because Satan had captured humanity due to Adam's sin.**

Atonement

- **Because Satan's hold on humanity was legally binding, God had to deal justly with Satan and so he paid his Son Jesus as a ransom to the devil to win back humanity.**
- **In the process, however, God tricked the devil and, in Christ's resurrection, God defeated the devil and gained his Son back.**

Atonement

- **Pope Gregory the Great (600s) illustrates it as follows:**

“The cross was the fishhook on which God placed the bait of Jesus in order to snare the devil and free humanity from its captivity to the devil.”



Atonement

- **This is the atonement theory C.S. Lewis uses in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.**
 - **Aslan gives his life to the White Witch in exchange for Eustace's life.**
 - **Yet, the White Witch, who doesn't know the "deeper magic", is tricked and loses it all when Aslan come back to life.**

Along comes Scholastic theologian Anselm (1033-1109)

- **Archbishop of Canterbury, England.**
- **Famous for challenging the Ransom theory of the atonement with the Satisfaction theory.**
- **Anselm felt that the Ransom theory was an insult to God.**

Anselm (1033-1109)

- **If God is all powerful, why would God have to bargain with or pay the devil, let alone trick him?**
- **God is in no way subject to the devil.**
- **If the only problem is that humanity is captive to the devil, God could simply conquer the devil and rescue humanity.**

Anselm (1033-1109)

- In his book *Why God became Man?* Anselm explain his theory of the atonement by centering it on the medieval idea of a vassal paying “satisfaction” to a lord he has broken a feudal contract with.
- In being human Christ paid the debt that humanity *owes to God* (not the devil) because of disobedience .

Anselm (1033-1109)

- **God's justice demands a payment of satisfaction, or else the moral order of the universe would be disrupted.**
- **The needed satisfaction is a debt to God's honor that humanity must repay.**

Anselm (1033-1109)

- **Humanity is unable to repay this debt and so must suffering the penalty of hell.**
- **God, however, in his mercy provides Christ as a substitutionary sacrifice to satisfies his own honor and preserve the moral order of the universe.**

Enter Scholastic theologian Abelard (1079-1142)

- **Abelard is infamous for his scandalous love affair with his student Heloise.**
- **The two later secretly marry only for Heloise's father to send thugs to capture and castrate Abelard.**
- **Abelard records this in his short autobiography *The Story of My Misfortunes*.**

Abelard (1079-1142)

- Abelard disagreed with Anselm's Satisfaction theory of the atonement, as well as the more universally accepted Ransom theory .**
- Abelard's idea of the atonement has been called the Moral Influence theory.**
- Based on God's love rather than his anger, humanity needed a motive for action towards God, not compensation paid to either God or the devil.**

Abelard (1079-1142)

- **Like the father in the parable of the prodigal son, the cross is directed toward humanity, not towards God.**
- **God does not need to be reconciled to humanity for God loves us.**
- **Our problem is that our sin makes us unable to see God's love.**
- **The cross of Jesus demonstrates just how much God loves us in that he is willing to die for us through Jesus.**

Abelard (1079-1142)

- When we see how much God loves us through the cross it inspires new motives and actions within us which we demonstrate by loving God in return.**
- Abelard's views were condemned by a synod of bishops in Paris and he died while traveling to Rome to appeal his case.**