

**Institute for Christian Studies
Diocese of Central Florida
Early Church History
Syllabus**

Purpose and scope:

We will explore the thought and activity of the Christian Church from just before the close of the New Testament period until the Council of Chalcedon in 451. We will look at how the early church determined its mission and selected its leaders. We will also look at how they wrestled with what to believe and teach. Finally, we will ask ourselves if any of these problems still face the church today.

Required reading:

The Story of Christianity in One Volume: The Early Church to the Present Day, Justo Gonzalez, Price Press, 1984, 1985.
Chapters 2-27, pages 7-265.

New Testament (any version): I and II Timothy, Titus and II Peter.

Other Readings (not required but interesting):

New Testament: I, II, and III John

A History of the Early Church, Harry A. Boer, Eerdmans, 1976.

The Making of the Creeds, Frances Young, Trinity Press, 1991.

Getting started:

Come to class with **TWO** short, one-paragraph papers. These papers will be used to aid our in-class discussion and are to be as follows:

Paragraph #1: During the period under study, what personality do you think had an influence on the shape of the church as it now exists and why?

Paragraph #2: During the period under study, what controversial issue would you have found the most difficult to handle and why?

Course credit:

Full course credit will be granted to participants who complete the required reading, come to class prepared to discuss their paragraphs, and complete a project to be determined on the class day.

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Modified 3/13/07 to expand the reading assignment.