

# Learning about your Holy Orthodox Christian Faith:

## The Seven Ecumenical Councils

#	Place & Year	# of Fathers	Personalities	Work Accomplished
1 <sup>st</sup>	Nicea I, 325	<b>318</b>	St. Athanasius the Great St. Nicholas St. Spyridon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condemned the <i>Arian</i> heresy, which wrongly taught that Christ was not God.</li> <li>• Proclaimed the first part of the Creed, esp. True God of True God.</li> <li>• Established the date on which Pascha is to be celebrated.</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Constantinople I, 381	<b>150</b>	St. Gregory the Theologian St. Gregory of Nyssa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined the teaching of the Church on the Holy Trinity, particularly on the Holy Spirit. Defended the Divinity of the Holy Spirit, as being fully equal to the Father and the Son.</li> <li>• Completed the final edition of the Creed.</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ephesus, 431	<b>200</b>	St. Cyril of Alexandria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condemned the heresy of <i>Nestorius</i>, who wrongly taught that Christ was really two persons – one Divine and the other human.</li> <li>• Defined the Church's teaching on the Holy Theotokos.</li> <li>• Declared the text of the Creed to be finally complete and forbade any change of it in the future.</li> </ul>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Chalcedon, 451	<b>630</b>	St. Leo the Great	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condemned the heresy of the <i>monophysites</i> who wrongly taught that Christ had only a single nature (His Divinity swallowed His humanity); or, in a more moderate view: has one nature from two.</li> </ul>
5 <sup>th</sup>	Constantinople II, 533	<b>165</b>	St. Justinian the Great	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condemned the writings of some Church writers who were suspected of the <i>Nestorian</i> heresy, and some of Origen's mistakes.</li> </ul>
6 <sup>th</sup>	Constantinople III, 680-681	<b>170</b>	St. Andrew of Crete St. George, Patri. of Constantinople	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condemned the heresy of the <i>monothelites</i> who attempted to compromise with the <i>monophysites</i>. They wrongly taught that Christ has only one will, destroying the Garden of Gethsemane.</li> </ul>
7 <sup>th</sup>	Nicea II, 787	<b>367</b>	St. Tarasius of Constantinople Empress Irene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condemned the heresy of the <i>iconoclasts</i>, the icon-smashers. Affirmed the use of images in portraying the Gospel of Salvation, since God had become incarnate and tangible in human form.</li> </ul>

Sources: page 75 of **Heroes For Truth, Vol. I of The Orthodox Christian Church Through the Ages**, by Sophie Koulomzin, M.A.

Pages 373-374 of **Orthodox Dogmatic Theology**, by Fr. Michael Pomazansky

Pages 173-177 of **The Faith**, by Clark Carlton

Page 233 of **The Complete Book of Orthodoxy**, by George W. Grube

Pages 26-43 (Chp. 2) of **The Orthodox Church**, by Timothy Ware