

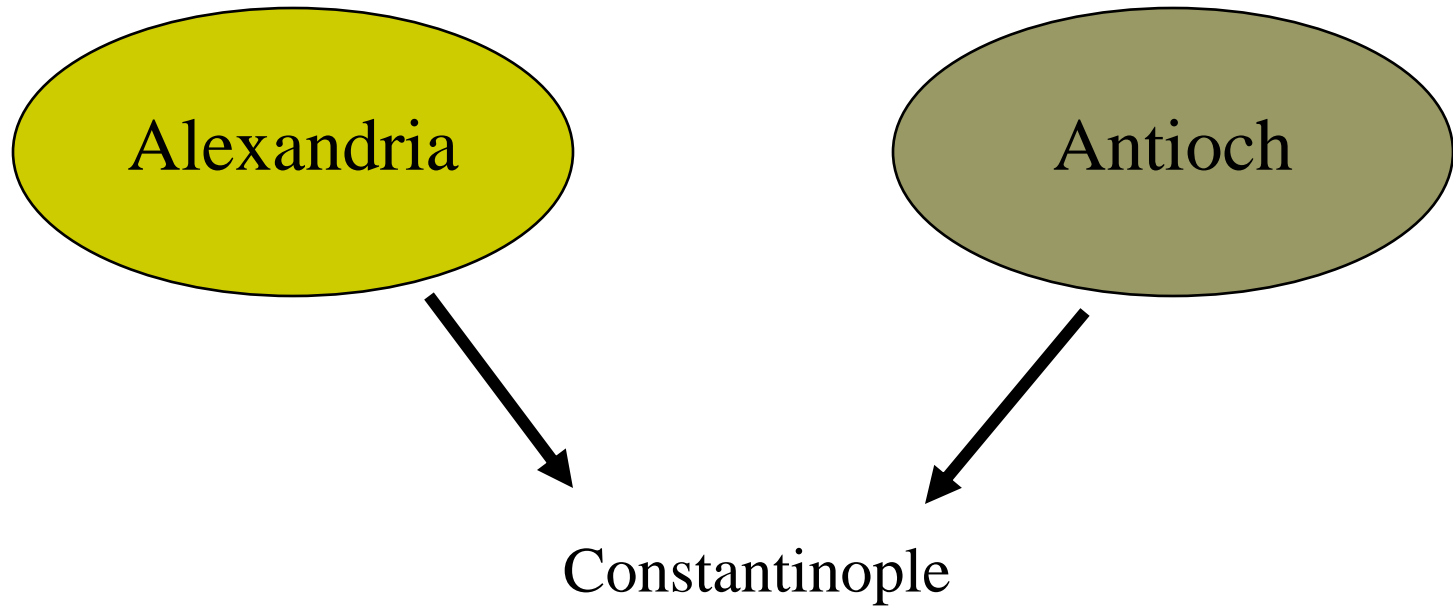
Christology Debates

Alexandrine / Antiochene Viewpoints

Appolinarianism

Nestorianism

The East



Both sides wanted their bishop to be in charge of Constantinople, because it had become powerful in the East – like Rome in the West

Christology

Alexandrine View

Main point was

REVELATION

Christ *revealed* God to us

Therefore

It's most important

that Christ was *Divine*

Because to reveal God, he must fully know God – and how could he fully know God unless he fully participates in God's nature?

Antiochene View

Main point was

SALVATION

Christ *saved* us

Therefore

It's most important

that Christ was *Human*

Because to save and redeem all aspects of humanity, he must fully participate in all aspects of humanity – which means any part of him that was NOT fully human could not fully be saved in us.



Christology - Summary

Alexandrine View

Jesus was *Divine*
(and human)

Antiochene View

Jesus was *Human*
(and divine)

Controversies: *Appolinarianism*

Appolinaris
(Alexandrine viewpoint)

Argument: *Christ had a physical body but a divine mind*

Gregory of Nazianzus
(Antiochene viewpoint)

Counter argument: *It can't be - because anything in Jesus that wasn't human couldn't be saved*

Council of Constantinople – 381

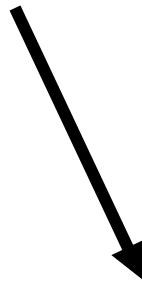
~~Appolinarianism~~ → **Antiochene Position Wins**

Controversies: *Nestorianism*

Bishop Cyril (*Supported by west and Emperors Valentinian III, Theodosius II*)

(*Alexandrine viewpoint*)

Action: Get Theodosius II to call council against Nestorius



Council of Ephesus – 431

Nestorius (*Patriarch of Constantinople*)

(*Antiochene viewpoint*)

Statements

- *Jesus & God: 2 natures, 2 persons*
- *Mary: **Christotokos**, not **Theotokos***
(*“Christ-bearer” not “God-bearer”*)

Purpose: possibly to prevent the divine from overwhelming the human

Controversies: *Nestorianism*

Bishop Cyril

(Supported by west and Emperors Valentinian III,
Theodosius II)

Nestorius

(Supported by John of Antioch and others)

Council of Ephesus – 431

Decided against Nestorius

(in his absence – he was late)

Protest against the protest
Against Nestorius again
(and everyone else who participated
with him)

Protest

Nestorius and supporters convene their own
council and decide against Cyril

Controversies: *Nestorianism Cont'd*

Theodosius II intervenes

Council of Ephesus – 431
Decided against Nestorius

~~Protest~~

~~Counter protest~~



Bishop Cyril
John of Antioch
(*Nestorius' supporter*)

Negotiations ... “Formula of Union” - 433

Upholds original council

Nestorius –
deposed, exiled

Alexandrine Position Wins → ~~Nestorianism~~