

## **Petition to Constantine**

Sacratissime Imperator Constantine,

I am Puritanus, Bishop of Acryla. Like you and many of the leaders of our Church, I recognize that we live in uncertain times, and that this council has a significant charge placed in its hands. We must create a unifying creed that will codify our most fundamental belief as Christians: That there is only one God through the Trinity. If this council arrives at something less, it would be better to have no creed at all, for it would lead our faithful to ruin, and a betrayal of the very foundation of the Church that Jesus established in the Gospel of John, "That I and my Father are one" (10:30). I pray, Emperor Constantine, that this council can establish a creed and hierarchy that establishes the authority of the Lord's entire bishopric over matters of Christian faith.

I therefor thank you, Emperor Constantine, for calling together these men of faith to develop the authority of the Church over these matters of Christian faith.

## **Opening Speech of Puritanus:**

His Grace, Emperor Constantine, my fellow Bishops, Deacons and Presbyters,

For those who do not know me, I am Puritanus, Bishop of Acryla. There has been much talk and discussion at this council about unity and compromise. Our venerated church leaders have done so, even some who share my very position, in order to preserve harmony among our brethren and church and we have been sternly warned by his Grace, to cast our differences aside.

But I will not balk as a result of the admonishment of our benevolent Emperor. His is the world of politics where compromise is the bread of his station... and compromise, for us, might do us well for things that are unrelated directly to scripture, but it would FAIL us in those fundamental ideas of our faith: The nature of Jesus and our belief in the One true God... As his Grace has wisely said, "...he is a Bishop outside the church and we are Bishops of things inside the church." His Grace echos Matthew 22:21, "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's," and this, my brothers is most certainly a matter of God's... a matter INSIDE the Church, where we are the sole authority of scripture. Just because we should come together and compromise and agree that a fish is a man, it does not make it so.

The real reason we all come here was to discuss the Arian heresy. All other matters to our cannon are, like Arian's Jesus, subordinate to this one, for without it, the rest are stranded in the ether. I do not come to you to beg for compromise, quite the contrary. I ask that we all come to affirm what Mark says in the earliest Gospel 12:32, "he is one, and there is no other besides him." There is but one God and that he and Jesus are of the same substance as in John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," both eternal, both from the beginning. Arian and his misguided followers would have you violate this most fundamental belief. I ask that we put an end to this Arian heresy and relegate it to folly. We are not here to create or to vote on the nature of God and Jesus, but to recognize what IS.

Arian's view on this divine issue is flawed. He asserts that God and Jesus are in some way different. If that is true, logically one of two things must follow. Either, there are TWO gods, in which case he is no Christian and rejects the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and John, and returned us to the dark times of polytheistic pagan beliefs, akin to Jupiter and his subordinate Mercury...or that Jesus is not Divine,

utterly destroying our belief in the resurrection and the sacrifice of the Word. Let us not be led astray. Let us create a Creed that is free of the stain of Arianism. One that is free of the influence of heresy. For one that is stained is not the true Faith and not worthy of any effort whatsoever. I propose the creed we adopt:

“We believe in One God in Trinity: the Father, the Word, and Holy Ghost. The same in essence and substance. Eternal and from the beginning, the same”

Thank you all, and may the Lord bless our efforts.

## **Responses**

To Arius:

Arius, your arguments suggests things that are not, when you say that God existed before the Word, as John also said, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," (1:1), John's reference in 14:28 is to the Father and Jesus, the Persons of God, but not the substance of God that make up the two. As the heart may say, "the brain is greater than I", they are of the same essence and substance and cannot be divided from one another.

To Acesius:

Yes Acesius, I understand how I may have created confusion. What I mean is that we are not voting here to determine the Nature of God and Jesus. The nature of the Trinity IS already, as it was in the beginning, as God wishes it. I find that this Arian heresy is truly what confounds the issue, as he and his followers would have us believe that WE are the ones who are shaping God's nature, and that there is a debate to be had. Subscribers to the Arian view do not know what you and I already know, they would have us believe that if we can all agree that two plus two is five, that it is so.