

The formation and ecumenical importance of the so-called *Nicaeno-Constantinopolitanum*

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This study presents the doctrinal environment of the Nicaeno-Constantinopolitanum, including its lost Tomus, mentioned by the synodal epistle of 382, in light of which the Creed's theology ought to be explained. Despite some lacunae, modern scholarship established links between the West (Rome), the Antiochene council of 379 and the ecumenical council of 381. The Fathers' attempts to find new methods of expressing a pneumatology based on the threefold ὁμοούσια demonstrate that the consubstantiality was meant to be extended to the Spirit. The Early Church regarded the Nicene Creed as being "the faith" (ἡ πίστις) or "the symbol" (τὸ σύμβολον). The other three formulae (of 381, 433 and 451) were definitions or explanations (ἄρτοι) of, yet by no means additions to "the ancient faith of the 318 holy Fathers". This, of course, does not mean that these four credal statements should not be regarded as being of equal rank today, since they constitute the indispensable basis for any ecumenical discussion.

Keywords: Decree of Theodosius (380), neo-Nicene orthodoxy, Nicene Creed, Nicaeno-Constantinopolitanum, Romano-Nicaenum, pneumatology, Antiochene council of 379, Trinitarian doctrine, councils of Constantinople (381 and 382), Ephesus (431) and Chalcedon (451)

Early Creeds as part of the Reformed tradition

The ancient Christian Creeds and Definitions are definitely part of the tradition inherited and cherished by all Reformers of the sixteenth century. For example, *The Second Helvetic Confession* composed by Heinrich Bullinger (Zwingli's successor in Zürich) in 1562, then published as the confession of the Swiss Reformers in 1566, being accepted and appreciated by virtually all Reformed communities in Europe and in Britain, states:

Et ut paucis multa hujus causae dicamus, quaecunque de incarnationis Domini nostri Jesu Christi mysterio definita sunt ex Scripturis Sanctis, et comprehensa symbolis ac sententiis quatuor primarum et praestan-

And, to say many things in a few words, with a sincere heart we believe, and freely confess out loud, whatever things are defined from the Holy Scriptures concerning the mystery of the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, and are summed up in the