

50+ Sunday School Class

All Saints Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

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Influential Leaders in Church History

All Saints Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX
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Summer 2020

Taught by Rev. Craig Chapman

Influential Leaders in Church History

Class Schedule – Summer 2020

New Series – Influential Leaders in Church History

- May 31 – 1: *Athanasius*
- **June 7 – 2: *Augustine***
- June 14 – 3: *Thomas Aquinas*
- June 21 – 4: *Martin Luther*
- June 28 – 5: *John Calvin*

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

- Athanasius to Augustine
 - 298 – 373 AD – Athanasius
 - 354 – 430 AD – Augustine
- 381 AD – Council of Constantinople (2nd ecumenical)
 - Completed the Nicene Creed
 - Clarified the Holy Spirit's deity
 - Declared heretical 2 denial's of the Trinity
 - Arianism
 - Modalism

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

Nicene Creed

- We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of *heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*
- *We believe* in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the *only* Son of God, *eternally* begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, *true* God from *true* God, begotten, not made, of one *being* with the Father, through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down *from heaven*, was incarnate *of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.* On the third day he rose again *in accordance with the Scriptures*; he ascended into heaven *and is seated at the right hand of the Father.* He will come again *in glory* to judge the living and the dead, *and his kingdom will have no end.*

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

Nicene Creed

- *We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son*], who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.*
- *We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge on baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*
 - * — “and the Son” was added later

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

- Context
 - 405 AD – Jerome completed the *Latin Vulgate*
 - After the Nicene Creed, the issue became:
 - OK, so Jesus Christ is fully GOD, but ...
 - *How can he also be fully HUMAN?*
Does Christ have 1 nature or 2?
 - 431 AD – Council of Ephesus (3rd ecumenical)
 - Inconclusive

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

- Augustine
(354-430 AD)



Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

- Augustine
(354-430 AD)
- Christian upbringing
- Errant youth
- Converted to Christianity in 386 AD
- Bishop of Hippo
(396-430 AD)



Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

- **Contributions**
 - *Confessions* (400 AD)
 - *The City of God* (426 AD)

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

- Contributions
 - *Confessions* (400 AD)
 - *The City of God* (426 AD)
 - *On the Trinity* (~417 AD)
 - *Filioque* Addition to the Nicene Creed (589 AD)
 - Eastern Church's Response (1054 AD)

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

- Contributions
 - Psychological Analogies of the Trinity
 - Refutation of *Manichaeism*

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

- Contributions
 - *Donatist Controversy*
 - Nature of the Church
 - Visible & Invisible Church (Matthew 13)
 - Practice of the Sacraments
 - *Ex opera operato* = “on account of the work itself”

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

- Contributions

- ***Pelagian Controversy***

- Leviticus 11:44, 45—*be holy, for I am holy*
- All born “*posse non peccare*” (“possible/able not to sin”)
- We’re sinners because we sin

- **Augustine’s Response**

- ***Doctrine of Original Sin***

- We’re sinners from birth and unable to fix it
 - Born “*non posse non peccare*” (“not able not to sin”)
 - We sin because we’re sinners (by nature, from Adam)
- Only God’s sovereign grace can save sinful humans

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

- Contributions

- Romans 5:12-19

... sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.... ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

- Ephesians 2:3

... we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were *by nature* children of wrath, like the rest of mankind

- John 15:5—... apart from me you can do nothing.

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

- Contributions
 - Salvation is *not* a synergism (a cooperative effort between God and the Christian) but a monergism (entirely a work of God)
 - Philippians 2:13
... it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
 - The Council of Ephesus (431 AD)
 - Jonathan Hill, *The History of Christian Thought*
“It is little exaggeration to say that the whole history of the Western Church for the last 1,500 years is the story of Augustine’s influence.” (p. 78)

Influential Leaders in Church History – June 7 - Augustine

- Question:
What difference should this make on Monday?

Prayer Requests

Next Week

- June 14 – Thomas Aquinas