

Romans 12:1-2

- What does the church have to do with the world?
- What does it mean to “not conform”
- How can we be in the world and not “of it”?



Lesson 6: The Church Responds to Islam



The Islamic State

- The “Caliph” is King (Political & Religious)
 - First ruled from Damascus and then from Baghdad
 - Divided Empire into “emirates” ruled by “emirs”
- Zero Distinction between Church and State
 - Islam = the culture
 - Islam = the politics

The Church Under Islam

- Two-fold approach to non-muslims
 - Arabs within the empire forced to convert
 - Non-Arabs left alone
 - Jews & Christians originally left alone but were 2nd class citizens.
 - Segregated
 - Bishop turned into civil representative
 - Taxed
 - Distinctive clothing
 - No weapons or horses
 - No intermarriage
 - No public worship or processions and NO EVANGELIZING

Christian Influencers

- 2nd Class but segregated more than oppressed
- Several Christians in High Places
 - Husein ibn Ishaq (died 877)
 - First Principal of Baghdad University
 - Timothy I (728-823)
 - Leader of the Nestorian Church (rough equivalent to the Pope)
 - Wrote “Dialogue with al-Mahdi”
 - John of Damascus (675-749)
 - Prime Minister to caliph Abd-ul-Malek
 - Wrote “The Fountain of Knowledge”

Church's Response to Islam

- Three Ways to Make Converts (converts≠disciples)
 - Proselytize
 - Apologetics
 - Conquest
- It's against the law to proselytize

Apologetics

- **The Trinity**
 - Muslims are hard monotheists
 - Important to illustrate that Christians are as well
- **The Incarnation**
 - Muslims view Jesus as a man
 - Christians must show He is God & explain WHY that's important.
- **Divine Sovereignty**
 - Muslims = God is the source of everything (to include evil)
- **Worship**
 - Muslims accused Christians of idolatry (worship of Mary)

Conquest

- The Spread of the Islamic Empire was stopped through military action
 - In the East
 - Failed Siege of Constantinople (668)
 - Battle of Syllaeum (678)
 - In the West
 - The Battle of Tours & Charles Martel (732)

Growing Frankish Kingdom

- Charles Martel's policy of pacification through unity
 - Convert pagan Germans within the realm
 - Missionaries Willibrord and Boniface
- Charles places both sons (Carloman and Pepin) in monastery
- Carloman & Pepin invite Boniface to help reform Frankish church

Pepin & the Papacy

- Pope Zacharias crowned Pepin King of France (751)
 - A move to bind France to Rome
- Pope Stephen II flees & again crowns Pepin (754)
 - Rome threaten by Lombard king Aistulf
 - Pepin invades Italy and restores order
 - 756 Aistulf invades again and defeated by Pepin again

Consequences

- There is now no relationship between the papacy and the Byzantine “Empire”
- There is now a strong military and political bond between the papacy and the Frankish Kingdom
- The papacy is now over a large independent state. The Pope will now be a secular ruler as well as a bishop in the church.

Charles the Great “Charlemagne”

- King of Frankia (771-814)
 - “Recreated” the Western Roman Empire
 - Desired a truly “Christian” Kingdom



Emperor and Pope

- Charles was the king of the Romans, but the crown was given to him by the Bishop of Rome.
- The Pope had made himself the truly most important man in the “empire” as the king-maker
 - Can the crown be taken away as easily as it was given?
 - Does the king dare defy the pope?

Conclusion

- By the 9th century it's clear the church is beginning to look more like the world & less like Christ
 - False ideas about Scripture
 - Baptism regeneration
 - Veneration of Mary
 - The mass
 - Purgatory
 - False ideas about the Church's mission
 - Make Disciples?
 - Or make friends and influence people?
- Will the Church continue in pragmatism?