



EXPLORING CHURCH HISTORY: FROM CONSTANTINE TO CHARLEMAGNE

Session II: Escaping and engaging the world—monasticism and clout in high places

Things to keep in mind from last time:

Defining precisely who Jesus was—his relationship to God and his nature—was the BIGGEST theological issue of the 4th century

The Cappadocian Fathers—Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, and Gregory Naziansus—were major players with their theological understanding and leadership in a variety of areas.

Origins of monasticism

- “Monk” comes from a Greek word meaning _____.
- The narrow gate Jesus spoke of had become wide and well traveled
- The ideal of martyrdom continued to be important
- Deny desires of the flesh—spirit liberated
- Two kinds of monks
 1. Anchorite
 2. Cenobitic

Traditional “founders” of monasticism

- Anthony
- Pachomius

- Basil the Great
- Martin of Tours

Shapers of the Church in the late 4th Century

- Ambrose of Milan
 - 1) Politician and bishop
 - 2) Spoke in pastoral tones
 - 3) Faced down an emperor

- Jerome
 - 1) Something of a sour saint
 - 2) Internal struggles
 - 3) The Latin *Vulgate*

- 4) Memorable anecdote

