

of the scriptural statements about important matters regarding the deity of Christ and the person of Christ. And the formulations of these four Ecumenical Councils made regarding the Deity of Christ and the person of Christ, and the formulations that these four Ecumenical Councils made are accepted, not only by the Roman Catholic Church, not only by the Eastern Orthodox Church, but by every substantial protestant movement that I know. They accept the decisions of the first four councils, but no pope had anything to do with the calling of these councils or with the presiding over them, or with giving force to their decree. And we could go on if time permitted through the next four councils and we would find that the next four were in the East and I haven't checked into the next four lately, as I did the first four, but it is my impression that they also were all called by Emperors, as I am quite sure that most of them were. And they were all in the East, far from Rome. And then we come to 1123. And the Eastern and the Western Church had divided the Bishop of Rome sent a representative to Constantinople who tacked on the author of the leading church in Constantinople a noted excommunication that the Bishop of Rome excommunicated the churches of the East and a patriarch of Constantinople excommunicated the churches of the West, and they have been separated ever since, 1054. But in 1123 the Pope called the first ladder of help which they called the Ninth Ecumenical Council that met in Rome. During the next 400 years there were ten councils. Ten Ecumenical Councils were called from the ninth through the eighteenth in the space of 400 years. Nearly half of the councils. And I believe all of those were called by the Pope. But in these the Bishop met with the Pope to consider matters and gradually, the Popes got more and more authority to himself until at the Council of Trent in the 16th Century, the authority was practically all put into the hands of the Pope, so they didn't need an Ecumenical Council anymore, and for another 300 years there was another one of them. For the last 300 years, rather the first 300 of the last 400 years ~~there was no other~~ Ecumenical Council held.