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Saint Bishop Ambrose of Milan, Doctor of The Church (340 - 397 AD) -
12/07/2021 AD



https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=16

"Having won acclaim as a lawyer, Ambrose was appointed Roman governor, residing in Milan. When a new Bishop was to be elected at the cathedral, contention broke out between Arians and Christians. Ambrose rose to quell the raucous crowd.

Suddenly, a little child cried out, "Ambrose, Bishop!" The multitude joined in acclamation. Only a catechumen at the time, Ambrose was installed on December 7, a mere eight days after his Baptism.

He immediately divested himself of all worldly possessions and threw himself into the study of the Church Fathers, learning their writings in order to teach. He died in 397 with his arms outstretched in The Sign of The Cross." * But there is more to his story...

<https://www.christian-history.org/homoousios.html>

Fr. Arius of Alexandria, Egypt (256–336 AD) taught the heresy that GOD The Father created GOD The Son, and that The Word JESUS CHRIST was not always pre-existing, and He was therefore of "a lesser like substance - ὁμοιούσιος - Homoiousios." Arius read this interpretation into the following Scripture, claiming reference here to The MESSIAH:

PROVERBS 8:22-25

22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old.

23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

It would incorrectly follow then, that JESUS' Sacrifice on The Cross was not able to infinitely atone for man's sins, He being merely The Highest created Creature, and that He was rather a Divine Model to follow in living and earning salvation through keeping The Law of Moses and Good Works.

But if keeping GOD's Law externally by only human effort were sufficient, The LORD would not have promised a time when He would, in The Advent of The Savior and His Amazing Grace, write His Word upon our hearts:

JEREMIAH 31:33

But this shall be The Covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith The LORD, I will put My Law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their GOD, and they shall be My people.

Emperor Constantine (280 - 337 AD), the first Christian Roman Emperor, called the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD to resolve this vital issue. Saint Ambrose led the resolution of this schism by showing from Holy Scripture that GOD The Son is "consubstantial" with GOD The Father, eternally pre-existing, that is "Homoousios" - ὁμοούσιος - of the same substance."

It correctly follows then, that JESUS' Sacrifice on The Cross is more than just a Divine Model to follow, is able to infinitely atone for the infinite sins of mankind by Divine Grace in The Perfect Atonement of The Lamb of GOD slain for us.

JOHN 3:14-18

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must The Son of Man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 For GOD so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For GOD sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in The Name of The Only Begotten Son of GOD.

Our Good Works emerge from, but do not earn in and of themselves, but rather reinforce our salvation in JESUS CHRIST by GOD's Grace, The Law of Moses being written upon our hearts by The HOLY SPIRIT:

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

8 For by Grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is The Gift of GOD:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in CHRIST JESUS unto good works, which GOD hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

From the Council of Nicaea, we get The Nicene Creed, and see how great a difference one little Greek letter - the difference between "like substance - ὁμοιούσιος - Homoiousios" and "same substance - ὁμοούσιος - Homousios" - makes: thus the expression "the great difference of one little iota," of the Greek letter "ι."

So, in part thanks to Saint Ambrose - with many other holy Church Fathers - we confess in The Creed of The Roman Catholic Church, which state GOD The Son is of the "same substance - ὁμοούσιος - Homousios" with GOD The Father, within The Holy Trinity:

<http://www.beginningcatholic.com/catholic-nicene-creed>

"We believe in One GOD, The Father, The Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and 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, One in Being with The Father.

Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation, He came down from Heaven:

by The Power of The HOLY SPIRIT He was born of The Virgin Mary, and became Man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of 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."

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"We believe in The HOLY SPIRIT, The Lord, the Giver of life, Who proceeds from The Father and The Son. With The Father and The Son He is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through The Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

"Saint Ambrose proclaimed The Coming of CHRIST, the long-awaited Savior, in troubled times not so different from our own. When others were abandoning The True Faith for falsified concepts of CHRIST, Ambrose remained steadfast and taught his people fidelity by preaching, writing, and creating inspiring hymns still sung today...," helping to solidify our Confession of The Faith. *

Saint Bishop Ambrose of Milan, pray for us, that we too may stand firm in The Faith handed down to us by Providence and holy men and women, down through the ages, in The one, true, catholic and apostolic Church. AMEN!

*["Saint Ambrose." The Magnificat, 12/07/2021 AD. Memorial, p 101-102. Introduction, p 99.]