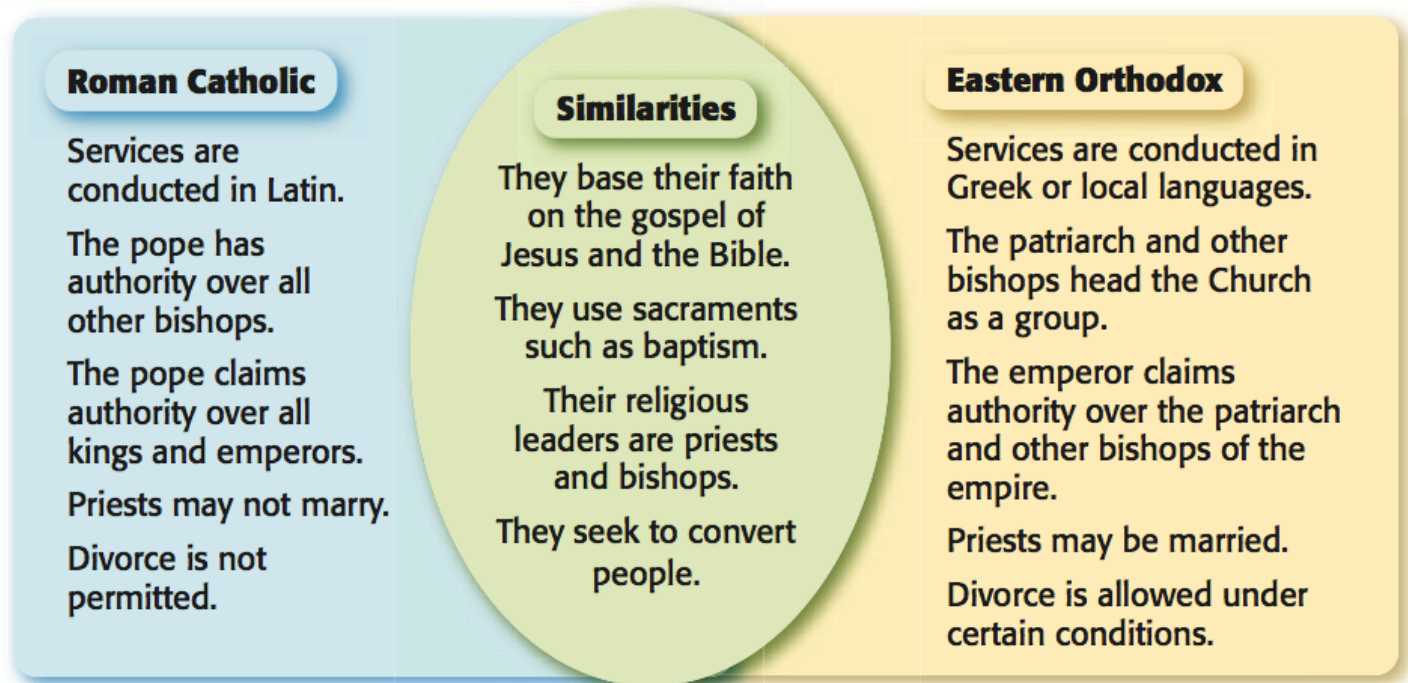


The East-West Schism

Directions: Read and annotate the documents below, and answer the questions that follow.

Difference Between East and West

In the first centuries, Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire. Later, however, the East was united as the Byzantine Empire, while the West was divided into a variety of separate kingdoms. As a result of cultural and political differences, Christianity developed differently in both regions. The chart below shows some differences.



1. How did politics and culture influence differences between Eastern and Western Christianity? Give as many examples as you can.

Difference Between East and West

How there came to be a split between the [Western] and [Eastern] traditions is complicated... In the West there was a Pope and in the East there was a Patriarch. The Pope is the head of the Roman Catholic Church. He sort of serves as God's regent on earth and he doesn't answer to any secular ruler. He also has the authority to make decisions about doctrine, or church teachings. The Patriarch is the head of the church, but issues of doctrine must be decided by church councils. But there's more to it than that. Ever since the fall of Rome, there has been a lot of tension in Western Europe between Popes and kings over who should have the real power. Yet in the Orthodox church they didn't have that problem because the Patriarch was always appointed by the Emperor. So it was pretty clear who had control over the church, so much that they even have a word for it- caesaropapism: Caesar over Pope. But the fact that in Rome there was no emperor

after 476 meant there was no one to challenge the Pope. They have a word for that too: Papal Supremacy, and it would profoundly shape European history over the next, like, 1200 years.

Source: John Green, Crash Course World History, adapted

2. How did the Pope and the Patriarch differ in their powers? What was the reason for the differences?

The Filioque Controversy & The Great Schism

Although differences and disagreements had existed for centuries, one final argument made the divide official. In 1014, the Pope added words into the **Nicene Creed** (official Christian declaration of faith) without permission from Patriarch in Constantinople. This alteration angered the Patriarch, and both leaders declared that the other was excommunicated. **Excommunication** means to be outcast from the Church. This resulted in a **schism**, or religious divide, resulting in two churches, the **Roman Catholic** in the West, and the **Eastern Orthodox** in the East. The excerpt below shows the alteration that was made.

Greek Version

Καὶ εἰς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον, τὸ κύριον, τὸ ζωοποιόν, τὸ ἐκ τοῦ **Πατρὸς** ἐκπορευόμενον
(*And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the **Father***)

Latin Version

*Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum, et vivificantem: qui ex **Patre Filioque** procedit*
(*And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and giver of life, who proceeds from the **Father and the Son***)

3. Why did the Pope think it was acceptable for him to make the change in wording?
4. What is excommunication? What is a schism?
5. Do you think this split occurred only because of the Filioque Controversy, or was there more going on? If so, what was the larger cause? Explain.
6. What two branches of Christianity were created by the schism? Which was which?