



One Christ-One Commission-One Commandment

**Visiting with us today?
Please stop at the Visitor Center in the lobby for
more information**

Our Vision

ONE CHRIST

In a spiritually confused world we will bring the truth that there is only one way to know God, and that is through Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

ONE COMMISSION

In an often distracted church we will prioritize telling others the good news about Jesus and mentoring those who want to grow deeper in their Christian Faith. "Now go out to the Street corners and invite everyone you see." Matthew 22:9

ONE COMMANDMENT

In an increasingly isolated society we will love God, love others and build a healthy, life- giving Christian Fellowship.

ChristStreetMinistry@ChristStreetFellowship.org
720-556-4092

3 Ways to give electronically to Christ Street

- 1. Text the word "give" to 720-552-6702: or**
- 2. Download the tithe.ly app or**
- 3. Give on our website:
christstreetfellowship.org**

Ancestry.GOD

July 30, 2017

Discover Brother Athanasius 296 – 373 AD
"Athanasius Contra Mundum"

The Church Begins at Pentecost

- Christianity begins to emerge from its Jewish womb. A key transition takes place at the time of the Jewish Revolt against Roman authority. In 70 AD Christians do not take part in the revolt and relocate to Pella in Jordan.
- Persecutions test the church. Jewish historian Josephus seems to express surprise that they are still in existence in his *Antiquities* in latter part of the first century.
- Key persecutions include Nero at Rome who blames Christians for a devastating fire that ravages the city in 64 AD. He uses Christians as human torches to illuminate his gardens.
- Emperor Domitian demands to be worshiped as "Lord and God."

Second Century

The Lord has not returned as soon as some expected, so organization is needed to continue the ministry, resist persecution, oppose heretical teachings, and spread the Word. Thus the office and role of the bishop becomes stronger.

- While persecution continues intermittently from without, heresies pose major dangers from within and must be answered. Heresies include:

- GNOSTICISM -- A kind of New Age movement that claimed special knowledge.

- Apologists, or explainers of the faith, emerge to combat heresy and answer the church's opponents. Key apologists include Irenaeus and Justin Martyr.
- The churches are not legal and have no public forum or church buildings. Local persecution can break out at any time.
- The strongest centers of the Church are Asia Minor and North Africa. Rome is also a center of prestige.
- The church continues its amazing spread reaching all classes.

Third Century

At beginning of the century, Edessa (Urfa in modern Turkey) becomes the first Christian state.

- Emperor Septimus Severus (202-211) persecutes; forbids conversion to Christianity. Then a generation of peace for the church. Amazing growth and spread of faith continues and church buildings begin to be built.
- North Africa a key Christian center. Egypt alone has a million Christians by the end of 3rd century. Carthage and Alexandria are leading centers of Christian theological development with such figures as Origen, Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria.
- The first empire-wide persecution instituted under Decius in AD 250. Everyone must offer pagan sacrifice and show certificate of proof.
- Church problems not only political. Intellectual attacks must also be answered. Porphyry writes *Against the Christians* attacking apostles, church leaders, Gospels and Old Testament. Origen around 245 answers attack of Celsus written 70 years earlier and apparently still a threat to the church.
- The role of the bishop continues to grow in strength.

ON RAMP >>

Newer to Christ Street Fellowship? Want to find out more? Join Pastor Gary and Joanna for lunch after the Service. Just stop by the Visitors Center and let Joanna know you will be attending.



1. **Make sure we have your up to date phone number and email address. If you haven't been getting weekly texts and emails then fill out a "Connect Card" with the up to date info and turn it in to Joanna at the Visitor Center.**
2. **Check out our website often... the messages are up to listen to by Sunday night.**
3. **Follow us on Facebook. Ask to join the Christ Street Prayer page and Love in Action Pages on Facebook.**
4. **Use the "Connect Card" to give suggestions, make prayer requests or ask for information.**

The Early Fourth Century

• The Empire Persecutes the Church -- At the beginning of the century the church went through the "Great Persecution"--the last and the worst. Instituted by emperor Diocletian in 305, it was intended to wipe out the church. It failed.

- The Rise of Emperor Constantine

- The Council at Nicaea

Homoousia - Christ is of the "same substance" with the Father.

Homoiousia - Christ is of "similar substance" with the Father.

Heteroousia - Christ is of "difference substance" than the Father.

The Creed Established at the Council of Nicaea

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, 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, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the

power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with 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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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.

- The Life and Ministry of Athanasius

C.S. Lewis commented on the life of Athanasius saying:

"He stood for the Trinitarian doctrine, 'whole and undefiled,' when it looked as if all the civilized world was slipping back from Christianity into the religion of Arius – into one of those 'sensible' synthetic religions which are so strongly recommended today and which, then as now, included among their devotees many highly cultivated clergymen. It is his glory that he did not move with the times..."

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