

# How Tradition functions in the church

## Experience and Memory of Christ

παρέδωκα γὰρ ὑμῖν ἐν πρώτοις ὃ καὶ παρέλαβον... 1 Corinthians 15:3



**30-80 AD** preached and lived in the first Christian communities

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**50-65 AD** supported and deepened by letters of Paul

**65-95 AD** recorded in four independently written Gospels, though dependence of Matthew and Luke on Mark has been postulated by scholars.



## Formation of New Testament Canon c. 200-350 AD

Beginning of Prayer and Worship forms

Baptismal Creeds and Eucharistic Forms

Beginnings of Christian Theology: Apologists of 2nd Century First Theological Writings c. 200 AD onwards

Martyrdom c. 100-300 → Cultic Veneration

**c. 300 onwards**  
Ecclesiastical institutionalization  
Ecumenical Councils & Creeds

Rise of Sainthood → Construction of Churches and shrines

Expansion of Sacramental & Worship Forms  
Iconographic & Hymnographic Sophistication

*“Lex orandi, lex credendi”*

# Beginnings of Christian Church & Faith

## Experience and Memory of Christ

30-80 AD preached and lived in the first Christian communities

65-95 AD recorded in four Gospels, several letters by Paul and other apostles and early Christians.

### Formation of New Testament Canon c. 200-350 AD

Gnostic Gospels, other writings which did not make it into NT

Beginning of Prayer and Worship forms

Baptismal Creeds and Eucharistic Forms

Beginnings of Christian Theology: 2nd Century

Martyrdom c. 100-300 → Cultic Veneration

c. 300 onwards  
Ecclesiastical institutionalization  
7 Ecumenical Councils — Creeds

Rise of Sainthood → Churches and shrines

Expansion of Sacramental & Worship Forms  
Iconographic & Hymnographic Sophistication

### The Five Ancient Centers of Orthodoxy

Latin West: Rome — Greek East: Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem



## Historical Outline of the Orthodox Church

Substantial unity of the church during first 800 years — but growing differences in church administration and ritual. Language barriers grew stronger.

**800 AD** Enthronement of Charlemagne as Emperor in the West

**Mid-9th century** Photian Schism was the first serious break in communion between East and West. *Papal primacy* became an increasingly divisive issue.

**989** Baptism of Prince Vladimir and beginning of the Russian Church.

**1014** The *filioque* was officially accepted by Pope Benedict VIII, after previous popes had refused to endorse it.

**1054** Mutual excommunication of Rome and Constantinople. This is the conventional dating of the split between East and West, a split which endures to the present. Attempts at healing the schism were thwarted by the politics of the day.

**1204** Diverting of the Fourth Crusade to Constantinople & Sacking of the City. In the minds of the Orthodox this was the proof that the schism could not be healed.

**1439** Council of Florence was a failed attempt at reconciliation. Most Orthodox representatives caved in to pressure and acknowledged the Pope as “supreme head of Christendom,” but the Orthodox Church as a whole rejected this council.

**1453** Fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks. Much of the Orthodox East was under Ottoman rule for centuries. Centre of power in the Orthodox East shifted to Moscow.

**1821** Greek War of Independence begins. Greek Church became *autocephalous* in 1850.

**1965** Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras lifted anathemas of 1054. Great Schism between Catholic West and Orthodox East remain.