

1. (Cont.)
that which the medieval monks considered worth preserving. It is very easy to assume erroneously that the church developed as one great unified organization until the Reformation. (On the whole the literature which has been preserved is reliable) We have already seen that the early church was not one all-inclusive organization. (The Montanists, 13: the Novatian Schism 22)
2. The Melitian Schism - Around 308 A.D. Melitus, Bishop of the second most important town in Egypt began to spread ideas concerning the organization of the church which the majority of the churches considered unwise. At the time of the Council of Nicaea (325) 67 bishops were followers of Melitus. The council, backed by Constantine, settled the question peaceably by decreeing that these bishops should confine their activities to their own areas. The Melitians remained a separate group for 1 1/2 centuries.
3. The Donatists - Little is known concerning the Donatists because their own extensive literature has not been preserved. Yet at one time they had 100 bishops and constituted the largest segment of the ~~Egyptian~~ ^{African} church. Their enemies do not accuse the Donatists of doctrinal heresy but ridicule their intense desire for martyrdom and attack them on personal grounds. They were not unlettered men since they had an extensive literature. They represented for 1 1/2 centuries a separate Christian group.
4. General -
 - a. In the days of Constantine 1/2 of the church consisted of groups other than the evolving Roman church. The main point of controversy seems to have been the laxity and paganism of the Roman church.
 - b. The Patriarch of Rome came more and more to consider himself head of the church since he was the only bishop in his area and since he was too far from Constantinople to be under close supervision of the emperor. While, on the other hand, the patriarchs of the east (Antioch, Alexandria and Constantinople) were near enough to be rivals and were all under the eye of the emperor. The Roman church however was never the dominant church until after its separation from the East.

D. Constantius - (337-361)

1. Upon the death of Constantine (337) his empire was divided into 3 parts among his sons. Constantine ruled