

He left a will that each of his three sons should rule over a large area of the empire but that other relatives, his brothers, ~~nieces~~, cousins and nephews should have very important controls over different sections and the soldiers had sense enough to see that such a thing wouldn't work but would result in confusion and difficulty; so immediately the soldiers took a hand. They did not take a hand as far as they might. They would not lay a hand on Constantine's sons. Whatever Constantine left to his sons, the soldiers did not touch. Constantine's name and power was too great for that, but all the other relatives of Constantine who would soon have been squabbling over what control they had of sections of the empire, were simply beaten and killed. So all of Constantine's relatives were killed except his three sons and two little boys. These two little boys were sons of Constantine's brother. They killed the brother but the two little boys seemed like such innocent helpless creatures that the soldiers were persuaded not to injure them. So the little boys grew up to become important in history later. Aside from them all of Constantine's relatives were killed except the three sons. Constantine had left the three sons in command of the three sections of the empire into which he had divided it. Constantius was to be the emperor of the East. The other two are not particularly important from the viewpoint of church history. If you are anxious to get precise details on the emperor of the far western region, England, France and Spain, that would be Constantine ~~II~~ <sup>II</sup>. Constantine II held the territory in between - Italy and the eastern portions of Europe over to Constantius territory. Now the reason Constantius was by far the most important is because he lived longer than the others. All three sons of Constantine began to rule in 337. Constantine I<sup>I</sup> died in 340, Constantine II was murdered in 350 and Constantius lived until 361 so you see his life was much longer and he was therefore able to exert a far greater effect and his effect in church history is tremendous. Now the two Western emperors both of them favored the Nicene Creed and as long as they lived, there was no difficulty for the Orthodox in the West. 4