

And Constantius said, "this man Athanasias in Egypt there, is guilty of all sorts of wickedness and should be condemned by this council. Here was the emperor insisting on the condemnation of Athanasias and he gave all kinds of charges against him and they were a long way from Alexandria and had no way of getting proof one way or the other on these charges. Who were they to say Constantius was wrong? So, someone said "well after all what Constantius is trying to do is get Arianism advanced by getting us to attack the leading opponent of Arianism. So the representatives of the Bishop of Rome and some of the others there, said to Constantius "we will agree to the condemnation of Athanasias provided you will agree to put into a statement, a strong condemnation of Arianism and make declaration that you stand by the Council of Nicea" You see they thought they would do some clever politicking. They would sacrifice the man Athanasias in order to get the principle advanced and God never blesses that kind of politics. If a man is right, you have no right to turn against him in order to advance the principle he is standing for. I have seen that done in our own day. When a man stands for a principle, people immediately begin to criticize his creed. I have known time and again when people think - oh well, if such a man will just step out of the leadership, he will retire from the picture, I will stand for the ~~same~~ principle he is defending, but as long as he is there I simply can't do that. I have seen that repeatedly. People believe the lies that other people tell who oppose their principles and then agree to oppose the men who are leading and suffering for a cause. Well these men agreed to that and once Constantius had their agreement to condemnation of Athanasias, it became very difficult to twist things around so that when the final statement was made and signed, there was no condemnation of Arianism in it. They had simply agreed to condemn Athanasias. Tell the bishops of Rome when the presbyters came back to him and he found what they had done, simply repudiated and declared that they did not truly represent him. He stood for the faith of the scriptures, the truth about the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and which Athanasias was standing for, and of course if Athanasias was