

Christian Tradition: Christological Controversies; Bonus: Hypatia

Readings CHANGED: CLA 178-188, 259-262; handout on Hypatia & temple destruction

Important Names, Terms, & Concepts

“Monophysite”

Council of Chalcedon (and the definition of orthodox theology that resulted from it)

Cyril of Alexandria (and his theological position)

Nestorius (and his theological position)

theotokos

Hypatia

Important Themes

heresy and orthodoxy

the increasing rifts between East and West (and even between regions in the East)

Discussion Questions

1) What are the theological questions and issues at stake in the Christological controversies?

Who are the major players, and what positions do they take on:

- *How can Jesus Christ be both human and divine at the same time?*
- *What does the answer to this question mean for a Christian's salvation?*
- *What is the role of Jesus' mother Mary—who is she, how is she viewed and why is she an issue here?*

2) Based on your readings of the canons of the Councils, what IS the orthodox position on the nature of Christ? Who do you think won or lost?

3) Who was Hypatia? Why was she important in life? What does her death mean for the church in Alexandria?