

**CORRECT ANSWERS FOR REVIEW QUIZ FOR YEAR 1**

Use the following quiz to determine how much your student remembers from Year 1 of *Tapestry of Grace*. Each short answer is worth 5 points.

**SHORT ANSWER**

1. The Fertile Crescent, a region in what is now the Middle East, is also known as the “Cradle of Civilization.”
2. List three ancient rivers that were the center of prominent ancient civilizations.  
*Any three of these would be correct:*
  - Tigris River
  - Euphrates River
  - Nile River
  - Indus River
  - Huang Ho (Yellow) River
  - Tiber River
3. List two civilizations famous for advanced public works (such as public drains, well-planned cities, etc.).  
*Any two of these would be correct:*
  - Indus Valley civilization
  - Minoan civilization
  - Chinese civilization
  - Roman civilization
4. With which civilization were the Hebrew patriarchs associated before they came to the land of Canaan?  
*Sumer*
5. Which was the larger civilization in terms of population, Egypt or the Indus Valley civilization?  
*Both were similarly large and advanced (though some resources teach that the Indus Valley civilization was larger).*
6. Which civilization produced the Code of Hammurabi?  
*The Old Babylonian civilization*
7. Name one kind of technology that the ancient American civilizations lacked, although they accomplished amazing architectural feats without it.  
*Either of these would be correct:*  
*Metal tools*  
*The wheel*
8. Describe two of the items in the Tabernacle and their symbolic significance.  
*Any two of these would be correct:*
  - *Tabernacle Courtyard: The holy area was set apart from the common camp; only those who were “clean” could enter.*
  - *Altar of Burnt Offering: Sacrifice for sin is man’s first need when approaching God.*
  - *Washbasin: Ceremonial cleansing from sin is necessary in order to be pure before God.*
  - *Lampstand: This represents God’s light and God’s revelation through His word.*
  - *Bread of the Presence: This represents God’s faithfulness; God is the King of the universe and provides everything good for His people.*
  - *Altar of Incense: Prayers of the saints continually ascend before God.*
  - *Holy Place: One can enter into God’s presence.*
  - *Curtain: Sinful men are separated from the Holy of Holies. The tearing of the curtain in two in the Jerusalem Temple at Jesus’ death signifies the Christian’s free access to the holy God.*
  - *Ark of the Covenant: This supported the Mercy Seat, where God’s presence on earth dwelt. It has no direct parallel in Christian worship, since God is spirit, and where two or three are gathered in His name, there He is in their midst.*
9. Under which Hebrew king was the Promised Land split into the kingdoms of Israel and Judah? What was the primary reason for this split?  
*Rehoboam, son of Solomon. He exasperated his subjects by not only continuing but also threatening to increase some of the oppressive policies of Solomon’s reign. (Students may also list God’s judgment on Solomon for his unfaithfulness.)*

10. Which ancient empire carried the kingdom of Israel into captivity? Which empire carried off the kingdom of Judah?  
*The Assyrians carried off Israel; the Babylonians carried off Judah.*
11. Which ancient Greek culture is associated with the legend of the Trojan War as recounted by Homer?  
*Answers may vary, according to previous studies. Any one of these would be correct:*
- *The Mycenaean culture is commonly associated with Agamemnon (king of Mycenae) and his followers.*
  - *In the Iliad and Odyssey themselves, the Greek peoples are called Achaeans or Danaans.*
  - *The Trojans were an ancient “Greek” people obviously associated with the Trojan War.*
  - *Homer himself was probably an Ionian Greek, living at the end of the Greek Dark Ages brought on by the Dorian invasion several hundred years earlier.*
12. Name two arts or sciences in which the ancient Chinese excelled.  
*Any one of these would be correct:*
- *Calligraphy (the art of writing Chinese pictographs)*
  - *Astronomy (including measuring the moon’s orbit, predicting eclipses, and observing sunspots)*
  - *Casting of weapons*
  - *Seismographs*
  - *Iron mining*
  - *Compasses*
  - *Printing*
13. Against which eastern power did the Greeks fight three major battles? Who won the war?  
*They fought against the Persians. The Greeks won.*
14. Name two of the peoples that the Macedonians conquered under Alexander the Great.  
*Any one of these would be correct:*
- *Greeks*
  - *Phoenicians*
  - *Persians (including Lydians and Medes)*
  - *Egyptians*
  - *Jews*
15. What were two of the effects of Alexander’s conquests on the peoples that he conquered?  
*Any two of these would be correct:*
- *Existing governmental and social structures were leveled, creating the need for new ways of life.*
  - *Greek civilization was introduced into and displaced many local cultural traditions.*
  - *Greek philosophy helped to call into question previous beliefs.*
  - *The Greek language came into common use amongst all the peoples of the known world.*
16. Which civilization was Rome’s greatest competitor in the Mediterranean during the second and third centuries B.C.?  
*Carthage*
17. Against which tribes did Julius Caesar conduct an extended series of wars? Where did these tribes live?  
*He fought against the Gauls, also called the Celts, who lived in what is now France and Germany.*
18. Under which Roman emperor was Jesus born? During whose reign did He die?  
*Jesus was born under the reign of Augustus and died during the reign of Tiberius.*
19. Name two Roman emperors under whose reigns the persecution of Christians was especially severe.  
*Any two of these would be correct:*
- *Nero*
  - *Domitian*
  - *Trajan*
  - *Marcus Aurelius*
  - *Septimius Severus*
  - *Maximinus*
  - *Decius*
  - *Valerian*
  - *Aurelian*
  - *Diocletian*

20. Name one way in which Constantine's official acceptance of Christianity strengthened the church and one way in which it hindered the church.

*Any one of these strengths would be correct:*

- *Churches could be built and meetings held openly.*
- *People who had been too fearful to embrace the gospel when it was a crime to do so were set free from such fears.*
- *Open preaching, teaching, and discussion of the gospel message were encouraged.*
- *Positive societal pressures made Christian evangelism and church growth easier.*
- *Christian missions and monasteries developed much more quickly than they would have in a hostile environment. These proved crucial to the preservation of Greco-Roman culture during the breakdown of society after the fall of the Western Roman Empire.*

*Any one of these hindrances would be correct:*

- *Church councils were called by rulers who desired control of political situations.*
- *Emperors sought to settle ecumenical matters in the church for political reasons and enforced them with military might rather than sound apologetics and Christian love.*
- *Many power struggles and ugly situations within the church arose from selfish political desires among church leaders.*
- *Conversion became politically expedient and socially acceptable, so the purity that was the strength of the early church was lost. This was evidenced during later persecutions, where those who were "fashionable" Christians denied the name of Christ. Church leaders were left at a loss when such weak Christians sought readmission to the church after persecutions had passed and the church was back in favor with secular leaders.*

**SHORT ANSWER**

10 minutes for these questions (4 points each)

- The Byzantine Empire was in existence from A.D. 395, when the eastern and western Roman Empire split, until 1453, when the Turks conquered Constantinople.
- The above empire was responsible for blending two cultures: the Greek culture and the Roman culture.
- Who was Justinian?  
*Justinian (A.D. 482-565) was a Byzantine emperor who ruled over the Byzantine Empire at its greatest extent, reconquering much of the former Western Roman Empire from the barbarians. He built the Hagia Sophia, and compiled all the existing Roman laws into one unified code, the Justinian Code, which forms the basis of European law to this day.*
- Name two achievements for which Justinian is famous.  
*Any two of these would be correct:*
  - Empire expansion
  - Building the Hagia Sophia
  - Compiling the Justinian Code
  - Consolidation of the Eastern Church and State
- True or False: Justinian ruled from Rome, where he lived in a magnificent palace on the Palatine Hill.  
*False. Justinian ruled from Constantinople, which was the capital of the Byzantine Empire.*
- Who founded Constantinople, and when?  
*Constantine founded Constantinople on the site of the old city of Byzantium in A.D. 330.*
- What does the term *asceticism* mean?  
*This is the deprivation of the body for the good of the soul. It can include such things as fasting, celibacy, prayer vigils (sleep deprivation), poverty, and solitary living.*
- What are icons?  
*Icons are pictures of holy people, such as the Virgin and the Christ Child, used as portals for prayer.*
- Name one of the three major orders of Eastern Orthodox clergy.  
*Any one of these would be correct:*
  - Bishop
  - Priest
  - Deacon
- Eastern Orthodox Christians disagree with Roman Catholics and other Western Christians over the Nicene Creed and the doctrine of the (Holy) Trinity.

## ESSAY QUESTION

20 minutes for one of these questions (60 points)

1. “For a thousand years, while the West disintegrated and was slowly rebuilt, God used the Byzantine Empire to safeguard Greco-Roman treasures.” Assess the validity of this statement, touching on written works, artistry, and architecture.

### Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

#### Written Works

- Law, especially the Justinian Code
- Classical books on law, art, and architecture
- Drama
- Philosophy

#### Artistry

- Icon-painting
- Text-illumination
- Carved ivory
- Intricate mosaics
- Golden or silver book covers
- Enameling
- Beautifully engraved caskets and chests
- Delicate frescoes

#### Architecture

- Cathedrals, especially the dome
- As with written works and artistry, the Byzantine Empire preserved (and even improved) architectural knowledge when the West had no time or money for such things during its struggle for survival.

### Sample Answer

*For a thousand years, while the West disintegrated and was slowly rebuilt, God used the Byzantine Empire to safeguard Greco-Roman treasures. This was especially true of Greco-Roman written works, artistry, and architecture.*

*As the Western Roman Empire fell, scholars in the East were busy collecting, copying, and maintaining important Greco-Roman manuscripts. Because of this, books on law, philosophy, architecture, and art were kept safe. Without the Byzantine Empire, these ancient texts might easily have been lost. God used the Byzantine Empire to safeguard the texts that He wanted to preserve for the future.*

*When Rome fell and there was suddenly no time or money for art, God used the Byzantine Empire as a place where artistry could still flourish. The Byzantines practiced painting, illuminating texts, carving ivory, and making intricate mosaics and metalwork. Without the Byzantine Empire, many of these Greco-Roman arts might have been forgotten. Because of the Byzantine Empire, they were kept and even improved.*

*In the West, people were too busy surviving to worry about architecture. In the East, secrets of building technology were preserved and used to erect the cathedrals, palaces, and public buildings that would become a pattern of loveliness for later generations. Without the Byzantines, the arch and column may not have survived. God used the Byzantine Empire to protect the architectural knowledge of the Greco-Romans.*

*Indeed, God did use the Byzantine Empire to safeguard the acquired knowledge of the Greco-Roman world, so that this knowledge would not be lost while the Roman Empire of the West crumbled. In this way, God ensured that these Greco-Roman treasures would be preserved until the West had been rebuilt enough to make use of it again.*

2. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of Justinian's reign in relation to his social, political, and military endeavors. How would you assess Justinian's reign as a whole?

### Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

#### Social Strengths and Weaknesses

- Because he wanted to rebuild Constantinople on a grand scale, Justinian initiated elaborate construction projects, most notably the empire's largest and most splendid Christian church, the Hagia Sophia.
- He also built aqueducts, monasteries and public buildings all over the empire.
- Byzantine art and architecture flourished during his reign.
- His building projects drained treasuries. Subsequent rulers were forced to tax people heavily.
- Justinian persecuted non-Christians.

#### Political Strengths and Weaknesses

- Trade thrived as many oriental products and Eastern traders were introduced into the empire.
- Justinian reorganized and unified the codification of Roman law, known as Justinian's Code or Codex Justinianus.
- The Code had considerable influence on Western legal thinking later on in history, as well as in the establishment of universities and legal practices.
- The Code has served as the basis of legal systems in many countries today.
- Modern commercial law is rooted in the Code as well.
- Justinian's government was oriental in style. It was despotic and his subjects had little access to him as their ruler.

#### Military Strengths and Weaknesses

- They were able to maintain an independent empire (unlike Rome).
- They experienced some success in conquests.
- Although Justinian regained additional territory in the West (Italy, the southeastern coast of Spain, and much of North Africa), the territory was soon lost after he died because attacks from the East and a scattered military made reconquest of the entire West impossible.
- Depleted resources due to years of military campaigns made it impossible for Justinian's successors to maintain his territorial gains.
- Justinian was captured and killed by Persians.

### Sample Answer

*Emperor Justinian took the Byzantine Empire to new heights. Socially and politically, Justinian's endeavors demonstrated great strength, although his military efforts and leadership were marked by significant weaknesses.*

*One clear example of Justinian's strength as a ruler was his interest in social matters, including architecture and the arts. He rebuilt Constantinople on a grand scale, initiating building projects such as the Hagia Sophia, a beautiful domed cathedral. Throughout the empire, Justinian also sponsored the construction of aqueducts, monasteries, and public buildings. These projects fostered the continued development of architecture and the arts, which richly enhanced Byzantine culture. This enrichment came with a cost, however. Because the money spent on building drained the empire's treasuries, subsequent rulers were forced to tax the people heavily.*

*Justinian's political advancements, particularly in trade and law, further evidence the strength of his reign. Economically, the empire expanded. Trade flourished after the introduction of oriental products and Eastern traders to the Byzantine Empire. Justinian's greatest political achievement, however, was the reorganization and codification of Roman law into Justinian's Code. Not only did his Code unite and clarify older laws, it also became a foundation for Western legal thought. Its influence is apparent today in universities, legal practices, and modern commercial law. Nevertheless, one weakness in Justinian's government, despite his emphasis on law, was that he patterned his reign after the despotic Eastern rulers who had absolute authority and made themselves unavailable to their subjects.*



While Justinian’s reign was strong within his empire and although he was responsible for the greatest territorial expansion the Byzantine Empire had ever experienced, his military endeavors were short-lived. Even though he was able to maintain an independent empire and make military advances, Justinian failed to reclaim the Western empire from its invaders. The scattering of Justinian’s armies across the entire empire made it vulnerable to attack, and the expense of supplying these armies put another strain on the empire’s treasuries.

Justinian’s reign had several military and economic weaknesses, but the strengths of his reign far outweighed its limitations and failings. He maintained his empire, built up trade, and made architectural and legal advancements that still influence us today. Justinian is rightly called a great Byzantine emperor.

3. Compare and contrast Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism with regard to differences in their views of mankind’s nature and relationship to God, their theology of salvation, and their approaches to worship.<sup>1</sup>

**Points an Excellent Answer Might Include**

**Eastern Orthodoxy**

- Mankind’s nature and relationship with God:
  - Eastern Orthodoxy focuses on the incarnation of God and the re-creation of man.
  - Man carries within himself an icon of God.
  - When man sins, he doesn’t so much violate a *legal* relationship as he “reduces the divine likeness” and inflicts a wound on the image of God.
- Salvation:
  - Major themes are rebirth, re-creation, and man’s transfiguration.
  - Christ came to restore fully the icon of God in man.
  - Man is restored to the likeness of God in a community of love consisting of the mystical body of Christ, which is constantly renewed by the life of the Holy Spirit flowing through it.
- Worship:
  - Focuses on icons
  - Beautifully decorated churches
  - Domes to draw the eye heavenward
  - Atmosphere of mystic communion between God and His people

**Roman Catholicism**

- Mankind’s nature and relationship with God:
  - Man is sinful; this is his primary characteristic as a fallen creature.
  - God is just.
  - Roman Catholicism emphasizes the *legal* relationship between sinful men and a just God.
  - Man cannot meet God’s demands and desperately needs a Savior.
- Salvation:
  - Man’s need for a suffering Savior
  - God’s mercy in the legal relationship
  - The glory and thanksgiving for salvation which are due to God
- Worship:
  - Focuses on the crucifix
  - More of a “memorial” service, remembering Christ’s act of atonement
  - Instruction as well as worship
  - Atonement through the celebration of the mass

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<sup>1</sup> The sample essay and points are based on Teacher’s Notes for week 2, taken from *Church History in Plain Language*.

**Sample Answer**

*Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism were both Christian religious groups, but they had different opinions on many points of doctrine. These included different views on mankind's nature and relationship to God, on the theology of salvation, and on approaches to worship.*

*Eastern Orthodoxy and Catholicism emphasize different aspects of man's nature. Eastern Orthodox doctrine holds, with respect to the nature of man and his relationship to God, that man carries in himself the image or "icon" of God. When man sins, he is not so much violating a legal relationship with God as degrading and wounding the original image of God. By contrast, Roman Catholics emphasize man's violation of the legal relationship between man, who is sinful, and God, who is just. This is a very different emphasis regarding man's one basic problem, sin.*

*Because of this different understanding of man, the two groups differ in their understanding of salvation. Eastern Orthodoxy teaches that salvation means a restoration of God's full image. Christ came to earth to restore the icon of God in man. Man needs to be re-created and transfigured. By contrast, Roman Catholicism focuses on man as a fallen creature in need of a Savior, emphasizing God's legal mercy towards him, as well as the necessity that man should express gratitude for salvation and glorify his new King. These reflect basic differences in perspective between the two.*

*Worship practices similarly differ in the East and West. Eastern Orthodox worship makes heavy use of icons, which are viewed as a window between earth and heaven. Through icons, that which is heavenly appears to that which is earthly and unites with it. Roman Catholic worship, by contrast, focuses on the crucifix, on the remembrance of what Christ did, and on instruction as well as worship.*

*Clearly, there are many differences between Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism, though both are Christian religious groups. Their understanding of man and God, salvation, and worship reflect different basic perspectives on Christianity.*



**SHORT ANSWER**

10 minutes for these questions (4 points each)

1. Islam began in the seventh century A.D. Its first prophet was Muhammad.
2. Islam means “submission” in Arabic, and Muslim means “a person who submits to the teachings of Islam.”
3. What does “Qur’an” (or “Koran”) mean?  
“Recitation”
4. Name two countries or regions that are primarily Muslim today.  
*Any two of these would be correct:*
  - Middle East
  - North Africa
  - Iraq
  - Iran
  - Afghanistan
  - Indonesia
  - Bangladesh
  - Pakistan
  - Turkey
  - Albania (NOTE: Resources may differ regarding Albania.)
5. Muhammad fled to Medina in the year 622. Muslims call this emigration Hijra (or Hegira).
6. What does the word *jihad* mean?  
*Jihad means “holy war.”*
7. Name one way in which God used Muslim culture for the good of mankind in general.  
*Any one of these would be correct:*
  - Muslims established an impressive civilization in Iraq, Persia (now Iran), Palestine, North Africa, Spain, India, and Syria.
  - Muslims transmitted much of the classical knowledge of the ancient world.
  - Muslims made many advances in science, mathematics, and medicine.
  - Muslims developed intricate geometric art.
8. What does “Moorish” mean?  
*“Moorish” was the name given to Islamic art in Spain, from a Muslim group that first inhabited that country in the 700’s.*
9. What was the principal reason that Islamic art developed as it did?  
*Muhammad forbade any artistic representation of God, animals, or people for fear of idolatry and offending Allah, the creator of life. Therefore, Muslim artists developed intricate patterns, using floral or geometric patterns.*
10. What does “arabesque” mean in relation to Islamic art?  
*Muslim artists developed a special type of decoration consisting of winding stems with abstract leaves. This scrollwork, called arabesque, became common in Islamic art in all Muslim countries beginning in the 900’s.*

## ESSAY QUESTION

20 minutes for one of these questions (60 points)

1. In a well-structured essay, compare and contrast Muslim and Christian beliefs about Moses, Jesus, and the Trinity.

**Points an Excellent Answer Might Include**

**Islam**

- Moses:
  - Moses is revered.
  - Moses' words were sometimes flawed.
  - Moses is not necessarily a lawgiver or "establisher" of the Jewish faith.
- Jesus:
  - Jesus is revered.
  - Jesus is the "messiah," but God is not a father and He does not beget; thus, neither Jesus nor we could be God's children.
  - Jesus was a great prophet.
- The Trinity:
  - God is one, and that means that He cannot have three Persons. He has only one Person.
  - Christians are polytheists because they believe that God is three.

**Christianity**

- Moses:
  - Moses is revered.
  - The books of the Bible which Moses wrote are accurate and infallible, since they were inspired by the Holy Spirit and are part of Scripture, which is inerrant.
- Jesus:
  - Jesus is worshipped.
  - Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, sharing fully in God's nature, essence, and deity.
  - Jesus is the Christ, who has come into the world to restore the relationship between God and mankind through his perfect sacrifice on the cross.
- The Trinity:
  - God is three-in-one (one in essence but three in Person).
  - Christians are monotheists, not polytheists.

**Sample Answer**

*Although Christian and Muslim beliefs share some startling similarities, they diverge on key points of doctrine. These are clear in their different views of Moses, Jesus, and the Trinity.*

*Muslims revere Moses, just as Christians do. However, Muslims believe that Moses' words were sometimes flawed, and they do not see him as an "establisher" of the Jewish faith in the same way that Christians do. Christians believe that the books of the Bible written by Moses are inerrant, because they are part of Scripture and were inspired by the Holy Spirit. They also view Moses as a lawgiver and "establisher" of the Jewish faith.*

*Muslims revere Jesus, but only as a great prophet. They do not worship Him as Christians do. To them, Jesus is the "messiah," but God is not a father and He does not beget; thus, neither Jesus nor we could be God's "children." Christians believe that Jesus was more than a great prophet, that he was the Christ, the only begotten Son of God, sharing fully in God's nature, essence, and deity. Christians further believe that Jesus came into the world to restore the relationship between God and mankind through His perfect sacrifice on the cross.*

*Muslims and Christians both hold that monotheism is right, but Muslims teach that Christians are actually polytheists, since they believe in the Trinity. Muslims hold that God is one, and that this means He cannot have three Persons. Christians assert that they are monotheists, since they believe in God as three-in-one, a Holy Trinity.*

*In conclusion, though Muslims and Christians share some similarities, they hold different views on key doctrines.*

2. “The Iconoclast Controversy raised important questions about the nature of Christian worship.” In an expository essay, defend or oppose this statement, outlining the history of the Iconoclast Controversy, summarizing the conflicting points of view, and explaining how the controversy was finally resolved.

### Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

#### Definitions

- Icons are pictures or images that represent a spiritual reality and are used in some kinds of Christian worship.
- Iconoclasm literally means the breaking of icons or images.
- The Iconoclast Controversy revolved around a policy of destroying the icons within the church and forbidding their veneration.

#### History

- Byzantine Emperor Leo III initiated the controversy by banning icons in 726 in order to uphold the scriptural mandate of Exodus 20:4-5 against idolatry.
- Leo III's son Constantine V rigorously enforced the ban, breaking icons, persecuting monks who supported icons, and turning monasteries into secular buildings.
- Many monks and supporters of icons (iconophiles) took refuge in Rome.
- In 787, Empress Irene called an ecumenical council at Nicaea, which overturned the iconoclast policy.
- In 815, Leo V and a council convened at the Hagia Sophia, reversing the Nicene council's decision.
- New iconoclast policies seemed restricted to Constantinople and its immediate surroundings.
- Many monks and supporters of icons (iconophiles) took refuge in Rome.

#### Controversy

- People who supported iconoclasm saw the church's use of icons in worship as a return to pre-Christian idolatry.
- Scriptures against idolatry include Exodus 20:4-5, Leviticus 26:1, Deuteronomy 4:16-19, 23, Jeremiah 10:14-15, Habakkuk 2:18.
- People who wished to continue to venerate icons argued based on Christ's incarnation, the traditions of the church, and other philosophical considerations.
- Just as Christ, who was divine, took on human flesh and entered the created world, so icons are meant to unite the physical and spiritual realms. Icons transfigure material symbols of worship, and because they do so, they should be venerated.
- Iconoclasts responded by claiming that icons promoted the heresies of Nestorianism (separating Christ's human and divine natures) and Monophysitism (conflating Christ's human and divine natures).
- The *Synodikon* claimed that icons are not only appropriate but necessary for Christian worship.

#### Resolution

- Iconoclastic policies ended in 843, now celebrated as the Triumph of Orthodoxy.
- The Eastern Orthodox Church embraced icon veneration.
- The Western Church supported religious imagery but considered it as useful for education, not worship. Icons could serve as symbols or representations, but not objects of worship.
- This difference, among others, led to the eventual schism between the Eastern and Western Churches.

**Sample Answer**

*Few issues are more important to the Christian faith than the question of how to worship God. The truth of this is seen in the Iconoclast Controversy, which began in the Byzantine Empire in 726 and raised important questions about Christian worship. Iconoclastic policies, including the destruction of icons within the church and the command that people not venerate them, stemmed from concerns about idolatry and the nature of the Incarnation—concerns that were not officially resolved until over a century later.*

*The many fluctuations in the history of the Iconoclast Controversy show the importance of the issue. Encouraged by supporters in the church, Emperor Leo III banned icons and icon veneration in 726 in order to uphold the scriptural mandate of Exodus 20:4-5 against idolatry. Leo III's son Constantine V rigorously enforced his father's policies, even persecuting monks who defended icon veneration and turning their monasteries into secular buildings. In 787, Empress Irene was able to remove the ban on icons by calling a council at Nicea, but this reprieve was short-lived since Leo V reinstated iconoclastic policies in 815.*

*The controversy over icons centered on two theological issues, that of idolatry and that of the nature of Christ's incarnation. Those who opposed icons cited the many biblical passages against images and idols, such as Exodus 20:4-5 which says, "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God..." Those in favor of icons argued that icons had long been part of church practice and that icons are important because of the incarnation. Just as Christ, who is divine, came in the flesh and entered the created world, so icons are physical images of spiritual realities. Icons should be venerated, they argued, or else Christ's incarnation is undermined. This claim that the veneration of icons is not only acceptable but necessary for Christian worship was a new argument put forward in the Synodikon, and it marked a differentiation between the Eastern and Western Church's approach to icons.*

*The Iconoclast Controversy was finally resolved in 843, when iconoclasm was rejected by the Eastern Orthodox Church. The Eastern Church celebrates this decision as the Triumph of Orthodoxy. Although the issue was officially resolved, the Western and Eastern Churches had begun to diverge in their understanding of icons, and this separation would contribute to the later schism.*

*The history of the Iconoclast Controversy, the nature of its disagreement, and its resolution clearly relates to important questions about Christian worship. These questions are not only significant in church history but are also essential for believers today to consider, since we worship a holy God who deserves to be glorified as He has directed in His Word.*