## Christianity in Context: The Evolution of a Religion

#### First, There was One Then, There were Two And Then, There were Three

#### LIR – March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Cliff Cain Harrod - C.S. Lewis Professor Westminster College

#### Then there were TWO

#### Language

- The Western half of the Empire spoke Latin
- The Eastern half spoke Greek
- This was challenging enough for regular conversations, let alone theological discussions

#### Sign of the Cross

• What is the correct way to do it?

## Celibacy

 Is it "better"/preferable/more spiritual for our priests and bishops to avoid marriage or to become married?

## Purgatory

- Good people go to heaven
- Bad people go to hell
- What about those who are not good enough to go straight to heaven, but not bad enough to go straight to hell?

#### lcons



### Idolatry?

 Are icons truly "windows into the Divine" (East) or are they actually idols (West)?

### Filioque Controversy

 What is the relationship among the three Persons—members of the Trinity?

## • The Spirit proceeds forth from the Father and the Son (West)

# • The Spirit proceeds forth from the Father alone (East)

#### NICENE CREED (two versions)

#### Primacy of the Bishop of Rome

Does any bishop have the "trump card" up the sleeve of his ecclesiastical robes when it comes to decision-making?

No—East Yes—West

#### Great Schism – 1054 A.D. First there was one, now there are two

 Western Church—Latin Church with its major center in Rome—Roman Catholic Church

 Eastern Church—Greek Church with its major center in Constantinople—Eastern Orthodox Church

#### Then there were THREE

Martin Luther (1483 - 1546)

- Video clip from the History Channel
- Three Distinctives of Protestantism: (1517)

Sola Fide

Sola Scriptura

The Priesthood of All Believers

#### First there was One Then there were Two And then there were Three

- Eastern Orthodoxy—The Orthodox Church
- Roman Catholicism—The Roman Catholic Church
- Protestantism—The Protestant Church

#### And then there were Many

- Protestantism—fractures into "denominations"
  - Lutherans
  - Baptists
  - Presbyterians
  - Methodists
  - Disciples of Christ
  - Etc. Etc. (I stopped counting once at 500!)

## • First there was One

- Then there were Two
- And then there were Three
- Finally there were Many