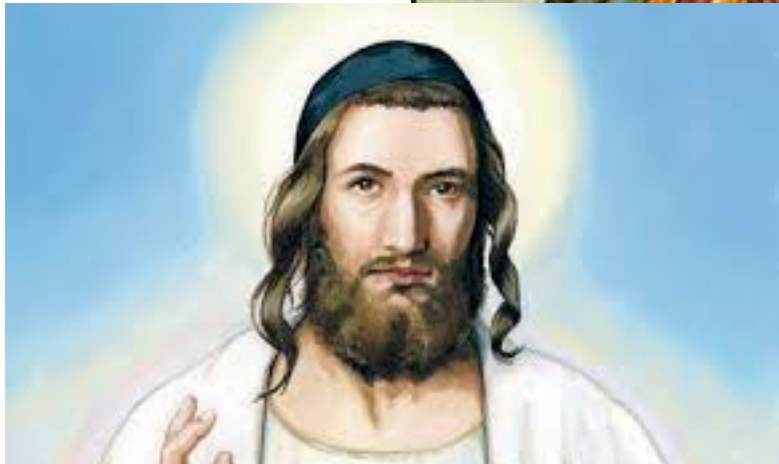


Christianity

Unit 6 SG 3 Part 1

I. Introduction to Christianity

- A. What is a Christian?
 - 1. Jesus: the son of God (the messiah)
- B. The Life & Teachings of Jesus
 - 1. Birth - Bethlehem (Gospels Luke & Matthew both support virgin birth)
 - 2. Early Life - Gospel of Mark
 - 3. Ministry - all Gospels precede ministry with story of John the Baptist; the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, & Luke convey temptation in desert by Satan; appointing of 12 apostles)



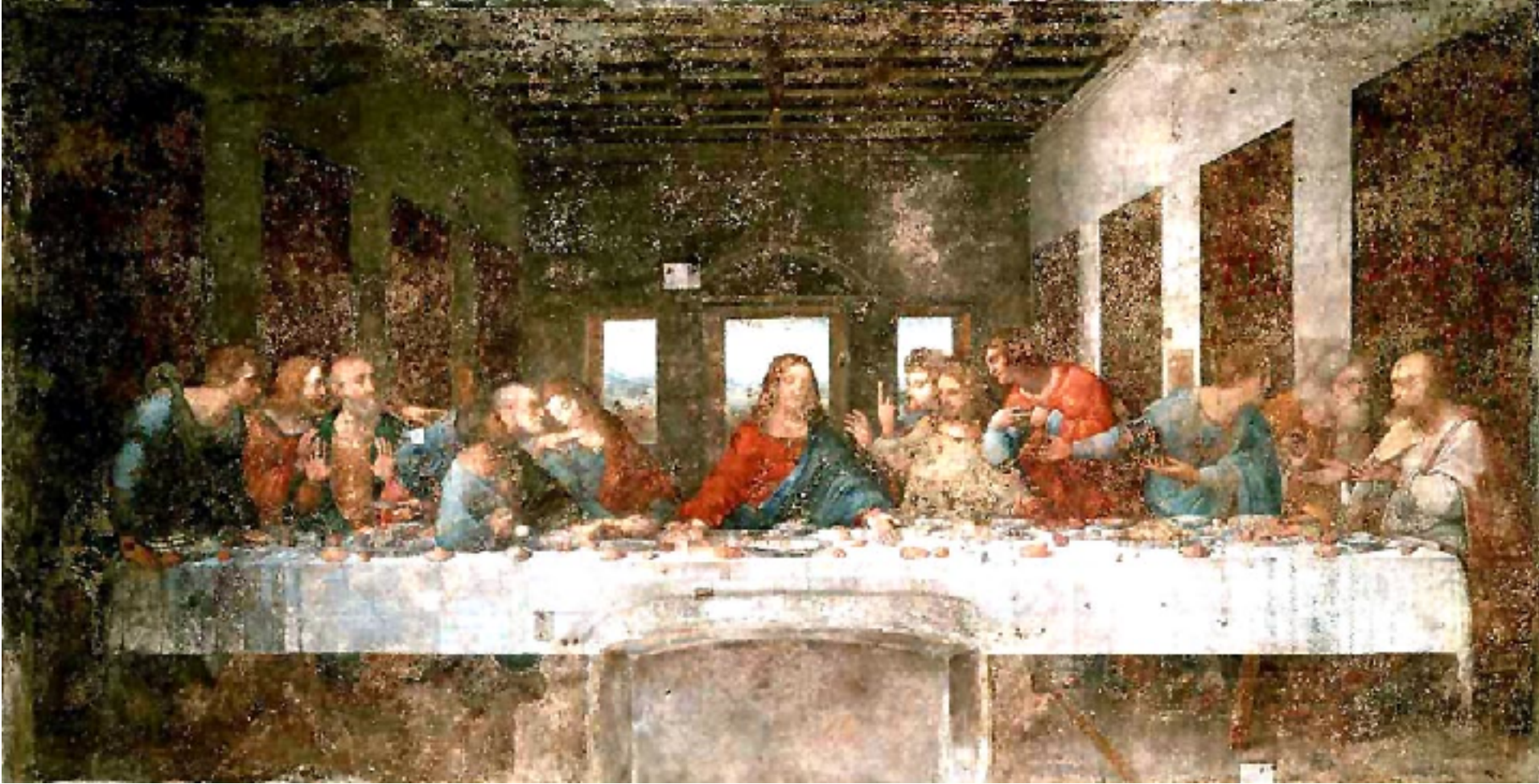
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- 4. The Sermon on the Mount (Christian principles, values, & ethics)
 - “turning the other cheek” compared to “eye for an eye”
 - “good works (alms prayer, fasting) must be from heart not for recognition”
 - “seek God’s kingdom instead of material items”
 - “condemns those who judge others before first judging themselves”
 - “warns against false prophets”
 - “treat people as you wish to be treated by them”

- 4. Condemnation & Crucifixion (all 4 Gospels) - fulfillment of prophecy (book of Zechariah; cleansing of the Temple of money changers; the Last Supper & prediction of betrayal & denial by Peter; the garden of Gethsemane; carrying the cross up the Via Dolorosa; piercing with the lance
- 5. Resurrection & Ascension - Tomb is empty after 3 days; Jesus makes several appearances to apostles & the Doubting Thomas episode; Jesus directs apostles to spread the word to all nations of the world; ascends into heaven to be right hand of God.



The Last Supper, Leonardo da Vinci



The Garden Tomb



- C. The History of Christianity
 - 1. Ancient Times (~4 A.D. - 500 A.D.)
 - a. the spread of Christianity
 - (1) The Apostolic Church - the period of the 12 apostles (~33 A.D. ~ 100 A.D.) - considered to be the purest form of Christianity
 - (2) Leadership of Peter - Jewish sect of the late 2nd Temple Age of the 1st century; law-observant
 - (3) Christian Jews - theological conflict between C. J. & C. G.; daily Temple attendance; home prayer; reverence for Torah; observance of Jewish holy days
 - (4) Leadership of Paul - began by persecuting Christian Jews then converted & adopted the title “Apostle of the Gentiles”; advocated freedom from the law
 - (5) Christian Gentiles by 2nd century A.D., Christianity predominantly Gentiles

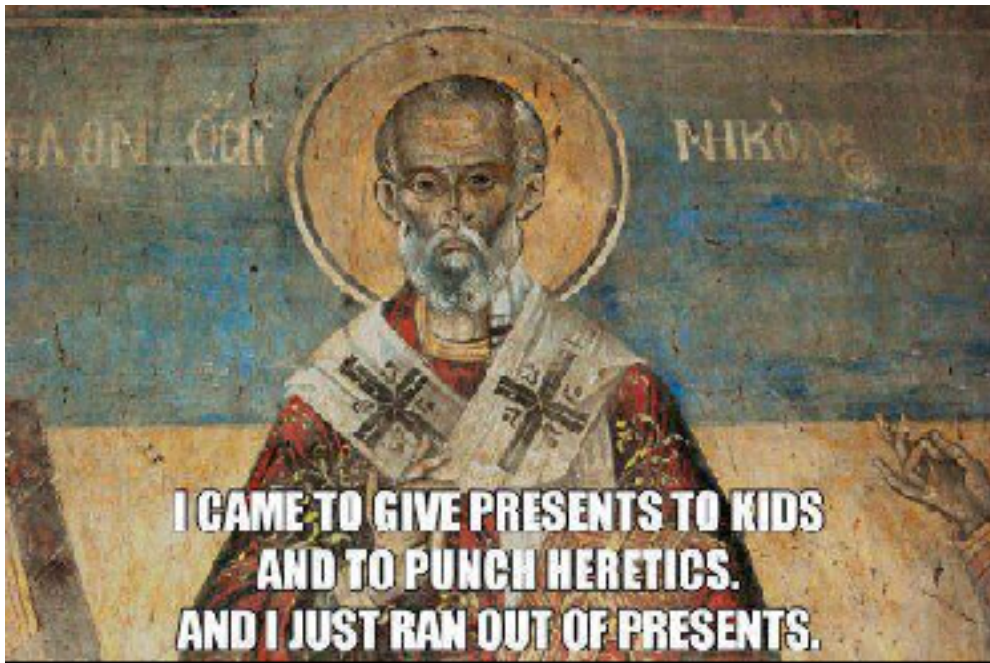
- b. The Council of Jerusalem (A.D. 50)
 - (1) At the time, most followers of Jesus were Jewish
 - (2) Called to debate whether Christian Gentiles should follow Jewish law and be circumcised an act considered repulsive at the time outside of Jewish community
 - (3) Should the church observe the Torah and other traditional rules of Judaism (Paul believing it was not necessary)
 - (4) James, the leader of the Jerusalem church proposed writing a letter to the Gentiles “and whatever things ye would not have done to yourselves, do not do to another (saved by faith, not law)

- c. Persecution of Christians
 - (1) Under Roman law nothing “other than a prosecutor, a charge of Christianity, & a governor willing to punish” was required.
 - (2) Why? Local governors wanting to cooperate with local animosity against Christians - persecuted to “keep the peace.”; political leaders of Rome were public cult leaders of Roman religion & saw Christians spreading the word as anathema, a superstition
 - (3) Central theme of Christianity as well as martyrdom
 - (4) At their height under emperors Diocletian & Galerius at the end of the 3rd ct (200’s)

- d. [Constantine I](#) - The Edict of Milan (313 A.D.) ended persecution of Christians after vision; mother Helena was Christian; built Constantinople (Christian architecture); baptized on deathbed

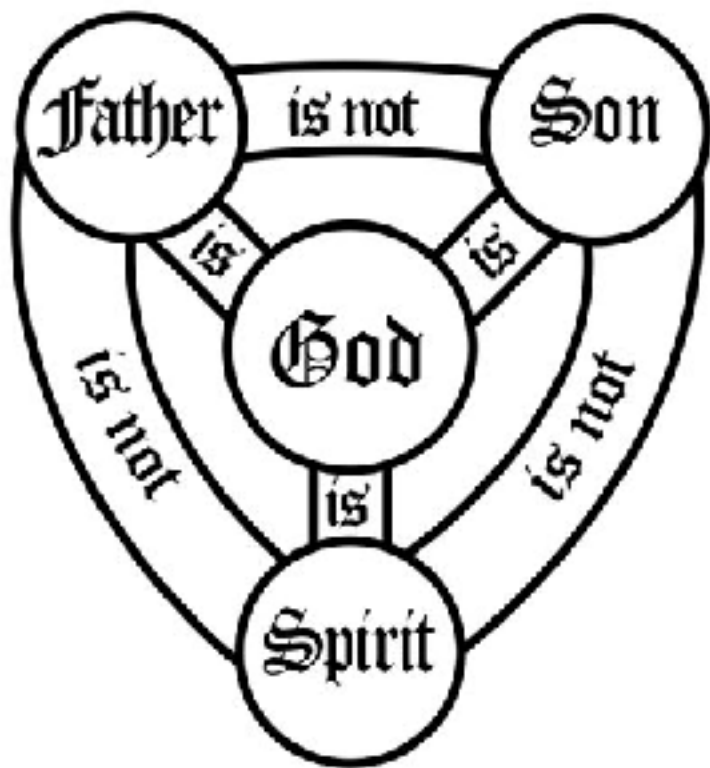


- e. The Council of Nicaea, the first “Ecumenical Council” (325 A.D.) means “worldwide”
 - (1) Resulted in first uniform Christian doctrine called the Creed of Nicaea
 - (2) Attempted to settle debate w/in early Christian communities regarding the divinity of Christ - affirmed teachings of Apostles: *Christ is the one true God in deity with the Father*
 - (3) St. Alexander of the Alexandria church took the position that “the Son had been ‘begotten’ by the Father from his own being; upheld at council
 - (4) Arias the Presbyter took the position that “the Son was created out of nothing, a more human characteristic; Arianism; was decided against



What Christians Believe - Nicene Creed

- Jesus Christ is “God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,” proclaiming his divinity
- Jesus Christ was “begotten, not made,” brought forth from the substance of God
- He is “one being with the Father.” This causes significant controversy throughout Christian history and is the cause of many future ecumenical councils.
- Refusal to endorse creed meant exile & excommunication; works of Arius burned



FROM THE CATACOMBS



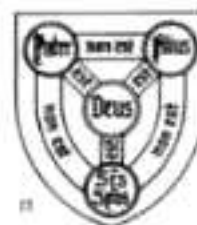
THE TRIQUETRA



TRIQUETRA AND CIRCLE



SHIELD OF THE HOLY TRINITY



FROM AN OLD WINDOW



"HOLY - HOLY - HOLY"



THE THREE FISHES



CROSS AND TRIANGLE



A GREEK FORM
"I AM THAT I AM"



FLEUR DE LYS



ST PATRICK'S
SHAMROCK