

Constantine I

Do your own research on Constantine 1. You may find that his influence on Christians is still with us today. Is this good or questionable.

He was known as Constantine I, Constantine the Great, or Saint Constantine, Roman Emperor from 306 to 337.

In 312, Constantine attacked Maxentius, his major rival in the west. Constantine later told how a vision before the battle had promised him victory if he fought under the sign of the cross. In another story, he ordered the first two letters of Christ's name in Greek to be marked on his soldiers' shields. With these marks, Constantine's forces defeated Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge on the Tiber River. As a result of his victory, Constantine became a strong supporter of Christianity.

During his reign, Christians regained freedom of worship, and the Christian church became legal.

In 321, Constantine instructed that Christians and non-Christians should be united in observing the venerable day of the sun – SUNDAY WORSHIP WAS MADE MANDATORY. I found that at one point in time that all Christians worshiped on the Sabbath that it changed to some worshiped on the Sabbath and some on Sunday and Constantine made it a law to make all worship on Sunday.

In 325, Constantine presided over the first great ecumenical (general) council of the Christian church. The council met in Nicaea, in what is now northwest Turkey, to deal with disputes among Christians, especially with the Arian heresy which considered Christ to have been of a different substance from God. More than 300 bishops from all parts of the empire attended. The council condemned Arianism and drew up a statement of essential beliefs, called the Nicene Creed

First Council of Nicaea (325) rejected Arianism, and declared that Christ is "homousios with the Father" (of the same substance as the Father), adopted the original Nicene Creed, fixed Easter date; recognized primacy of the sees of Rome, Alexandria and Antioch and granted the See of Jerusalem a position of honor. established the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the full moon (the Paschal Full Moon) following the northern hemisphere's vernal equinox The specific day on which the resurrection should be celebrated became a major point of contention within the church. First, should it be on Jewish Passover no matter on what day that falls, or should it always fall on a Sunday?

Constantine made new laws regarding the Jews. They were forbidden to own Christian slaves or to circumcise their slaves.

I read that he stopped all Gladiator fighting – I'm not sure if this true.

Constantine was not baptized until he was on his deathbed.