

## 5-3-1 Assignment – Chapter 1 – Vanessa Castor

### QUESTIONS

1. What were the most critical and urgent questions with which the church had to struggle in its first decades of existence?
2. With who and what were the earliest theological works of Christianity?
3. What are heresies, and what is the most essential heresy \_\_\_\_\_?
4. What is the Apostle's Creed and Apostolic \_\_\_\_\_, why was it created?
5. During the Ancient church, what is the most central part of Christian worship and who were the first apologists to impact us even to this day?

### Answers

1. *Paul's letters and in the book of Acts, the stamp of the difficult decisions the church had to make during its first decades. Would Christianity be a new sect within Judaism? Would it be open to Gentiles? How much of Judaism would Gentile converts to Christianity have to accept and follow? (Gonzalez, 25).*
2. *Some of the first apologists, such as Justin, who becomes Justin Martyr, sought to defend the Christian faith in the face of the various accusations made against it. (Gonzalez, 27).*
3. *Heresies are doctrines that threaten the very core of the Christian message. Gnosticism was one of the most important of these conglomerate ideas that differ from the traditional Christian faith, such as denying Docetism's creation.*
4. *Apostle's Creed is the confession of faith and was created to counter the teachings of the heresies in the early church, such as Gnosticism and of Marcion. Apostolic succession was also used to directly show the lineage to the apostles as an uninterrupted line of leadership in the main churches.*
5. *Communion is the most central part of worship. The great teachers were Iranaeus, Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, and Cyprian.*

### TERMS

1. Hellenism - refers to the spread of Greek culture that had begun after Alexander the Great's conquest in the fourth century, B.C.E. The first, the conquest by Alexander, which brought Greek culture to the middle eastern territories.
2. Stoicism – A philosophical doctrine that promoted high moral values that profoundly influenced Christian ethics development.
3. Logos – Word of God with the principle to accept reason and judgment as to the source of all truth, no matter where it may be found and relating it to the surrounding culture. (Gonzalez, 28)

### SUMMARY

The ancient church was a determinative period that set the stage for the Christian Church's entire history. Christianity was born in already established religions, culture, and politics. Through the trials of defending the faith, this caused Christianity to establish itself and set boundaries. This produced a church with organization, defined doctrine and rituals.