

Some writers do say it is on the one hand, interesting to see ~~that~~ how completely in power Constantine was in the empire. He made changes in laws, he made changes effecting every individual, changed the organization in many ways and the people sat ther and took it. It is remarkable how ready they were to go along - the people as a whole in the empire. But not with the Christian church. The Christian church at this century seemed to differ from the rest of the empire. The rest seems to be more or less cowed by the forces that had come in upon them and cowed by seeing what happened to the Christians when they ventured to uphold the power of the emperor and the attitude was pretty much one of submission to what ever the government dictated, except when you would get an outstanding leader who would try to start a revolt. There were quite a few of them which were put down by force of arms. But the Christians were people who had suffered for what they believed and were ready to die for it. Among them there were men with empty sockets where the eye had been, men with one arm hanging limply at the side and men with all sorts of injuries as a result of the torture they had risked their lives for. They would not submit to anything unless they were convinced it was right and the truth and right for the Christian. So we have a discussion and argument in the Christian world during this century which resulted in at least 50 different provincial counells being set up, each of which considered itself to be of tremendous importance resulting in such argument and such dissension among the Christians over this matter, that before long in the heathen theaters, they were making fun of them, ridiculing them. As the writers today will say, in our day of indifference toward spiritual and religious matters, it wa just hard to conceive of the tremendous excitement that swept the Roman Empire over these matters which are very difficult for anybody to understand after all. Now the background then would be in pointing back to the minority - end of no. 14