

There in this town of Nicea, the people came together to have this meeting and so b. The Deliberation.

When you look at the deliberations you have to ask yourself what was the purpose of it? Constantine's purpose was to get the church to agree on what is vital. It was not to enforce uniformity within the church. That wasn't the idea but it was to get them to agree on what was vital so that they could have uniformity on that and that they would know where the limits of individual freedom are. This was the purpose as Constantine ~~felt~~ ^{envisioned}. So they could decide this matter is one on which one bishop may hold Arian's ~~view~~ view, another may hold Alexander's view but it doesn't effect Christian work; they can go on and operate together in unity or to decide that one of these views is impossible for a true Christian to hold. Get rid of those people who hold this view and then go forward in unity. So the result was that it seemed to be a wise thing to establish a creed. Now there had been no creed up to this time. Individual churches had their creeds but there was no widely accepted creed. The so-called Apostle's creed comes into existence as far as we know, shortly after this time. But there were many creeds because every church would tend to examine people for baptism and question them about their beliefs and their acceptance of scripture and their loyalty of it and full understanding of it, and their personal understanding and knowledge of Christ as Saviour, and then the church had gotten the habit of many different churches of giving a statement which true converts would say expressing the great essentials of Christianity. These statements varied from church to church. There was no creed that was used widely. Now the thought was that the Council of Nicea should establish a creed for bishops. That is to say, it is the standard which includes what is vital and necessary and which does not include matters on which bishops might differ from each other. So that if a man is going to be a bishop and accepted in the Christian church, these things he should agree upon with the others who werethus accepted. Therefore the purpose of the creed was not for everybody, by any means. The average person in the church doesn't have to know so much theology; the important thing is that he know Christ as Saviour and that he desires to learn what the Bible teaches