

We better get back to our outline but I think you understand a bit better from this survey and this calling attention to matters that are important to watch for. Now we actually had just begun I believe to speak of G. The FIRST COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE and I did mention to you that this could be called the 2nd Ecumendal coujncil because that title is used just as much for this council as this first title. It is the 2nd of the councils which all large Christian groups RC or protestant or eastern orthodox regard as the ecumendal coujncil or general council of the Christian church. That being the case we should note briefly.

1. The calling of the council

You will pick up RC statements that all ecumenical councils have been called by a roman pontiff. You will find such statemtns and you will see lists. There was a list given out to the reporters in Rome at the beginning of the Council naming each council and listing the poep under whom the coujncil was held. Now of course if by pope under whom the coujndil was held, you mean the pope under whose direction it was held that is one interpretation but it is possible to interpret it as meaning what they today regard, the pope as being authority over the council. Now then when a certain pope was authority over the whole Christian church, this council was held/ Therefore in a sense they would say it was called ujnder him but McSorley says The First Council of Constantnople, 381 was invoked by Theodotius the Great, and nobody called him a pope, in order to secure ecclestical uniformity inthe east. It was intended to be a gathering of the eastern bishops and no latin bishops were present nor was thepope presented. Its ecumenical character dates from its later acceptance. ~~the~~ The fact is that he points out, when it was held no pope called it, no pope was present, no pope had a representative present, no pope had anything whatever to do with it. It was called by the coujncil and the first 8 councils all were called by emperors. It was only after the separation of the east and west that the pope tried to take over the authority which the emperors had at first in calling councils and calling the councils ecumenical councils. But of this one it is particularly clear that the first ecumenical council was called by Constantine.