## Christology - The Cappadocians

278 Basil the Great c. 330-379, bp of Caesarea (Capp.) from 370 Son of distinguished rhetor Basil of Caesarea in Cappadocia attended schools of Caesarea (capp), Constantinople, Athens. His mother Emmelia, his grandmother Macrina the Elder, His Brother Gegory of Nyssa, his sister Macrina the Younger are all venerated as saints

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Returning home from schools in 356 he taught rhetoric for a time but soon renounced the world. He was bap; tized and visited the most famous ascetics of Syria Palestine Egypt and Mesopotamia. Afterwards he lived with like minded comp; anions in a desert near Neocaesarea in Pontus.

c. 364 Bp Eusebius of Caesarea persuaded him to move to Caesara and take up the care of souls. In 370 he succeeded Eusebius as bp and as metropolitan of Cappadocia and exarch of the political diocese of Pontus.

Altaner 335 - 345

279 Christ's humanity with a created soul is the subject of human suffering, of growth and progress, and of ignorance of the day of judgement

The subject of the pathe is either the flesh, of the flesh endowed with a soul, or of the soul in so far as its use of the body as an instrument. The flesh may be destroyed; the flesh endowed with a soul may be weary and suffer, feel hunger and thirst; the soul that has made use of the & body is subject to griefs, anxieties and cares. Of these some are natural and necessary to the living being, while others are brought on by a perverse will and lack of training in virtue. Christ took on the former group to show the reality of his incarnation, but the latter group, which contaminates the purity of our lives, has no place in him.

In Basil then the soul is a theological factor such as would answer ARianism and save the transcendence of the Logos

While Basil is concerned to exclude sinful emotions in the soul of Xt, he does not think to transfer to it the spiritual decisions that bring about the mission and redemption.

280 Cappadocians two failings

They seek to explain the unity of Christ with the help pf Stoic theories about the mixing of two natural things that completely p'ermeate each other without losing their respective proper

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Their account of hypostasis or prosopon is inadequate: it rests on Stoic notions of individual characteristics

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Christology -? Gregory of Nazianzus b 329-30 - d c 390 Altaner 345-351 Son the Bishop Gregory of Nazianzus, attended school of rhetiric at Caeasarea in Cappadocia, then the Xtian schools at Caesarea in Palestine and at Alexandria, finally the pagan university at Athens where he became the lifelong friend of Basil and remained until his return home about 356-7. The outstanding literary figure among fourth century Xtians.

281 Gregory inherited a clear doctrine of the soul from Origen.

There are two natures, God and man, in Christ, as there are in him both body and soul. The humanity of Jesus is a physis because it consists of body and soul.

He tuaght that Xt's soul mediaed between the divinity and the flesh

G contrasts the frameworks, Deus carnifer and Homo deifer, and clearly opts for the latter. 282 For the first time in Xtian theology, he applies trinitarian concepts to Xtology, not by using technical terms, but by

contrasting allos and allo

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Ekei (in the trinity) men gar allos kai allos, ina me tas Mapx hypostaseis sugkheomen, ouk allo de kai allo, hen gar ta tria kai tauton tei theoteti

But in Christ there is not allos kai allos but allo kai allo

The conjunction of Xt's humanity with the divinity is the foundation for our conjunction with the divinity

## 282 Gregory of Nyssa ob 394 Altaner 351-357

283 Gregory of Nyssa stresses the two natures of Xt much more than did ?Gregory of Nazianzus. The reason for this is his dispute with the Apodeixis of Apollinaris.

Flesh and Logos are described as distinct natures to combat A's doctrine one nature

Homo assumptus is a frequent expression in his writinvs

Great rouble is taken to think out the theological significance of the soul of Xt as a a real redemptive principle

The cause of Xt's death on the cross is the separation of soul and body, not the separation of Logos and flesh

Despite the strong emphasis on the two natures, which at times inspired Gregory to Nestorian formulas, the unity is explained basically in categories of mingling

The union of the two natures brings about a divinization of the humanity: the humanity is in the divinity like a drop of vinegar in the sea.

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## Christology - Gregory of Nyssa con'd

284 The flesh mingled with the Godhead does not remain within its own limitations, butis taken up into the heights of h the overwhelming and transcending nature. Careful consideration can distinguish the properties of the flesh and the Godhead in an unmingled state only when each of the natures is examinged by itself. The transformation of manhood into Godhead begins with Xt's conception in a virgin. The divine formation of Xt's body is an unique instance. After his earthly life and passion there follows a still more far-reabhing transformation. Christ's second coming does not occur in human form. At times he draws back and is led to posit some independence for Xt's human nature. Occasionally he assigns it a separate prosopon or hypostasis.

285 Underlying Cappadocian thought Stoic account of ousia hule, koinos poion, idios p;oion

286 Ps Basil, epistle 38, now attributed to Gregoryof Nyssa Idion, idiazon refers to hypostasis

koinon refers to the nature

287 Hyp; ostasis is the conflux of the of the prarticularizing characteristics of each membber of the trinity

The hypostasis is visible and recognizable like a countenance, a prosopon

288 Only in their inclusion of moral qualities in the properties do they get beyond the material order 289 Meeting the Apollinarian charge that acknowledging a soul in Xt implied two Sons or a twofold Sonship of the Lord, Gregory elinated the human hypostasis by retaining the common human substance and dropping the individuating human properties As there are only divine idiomata in Xt, there are not two Sons or a twofold sonship

290 Gregory's christology ultimately is unsatisfactory, but Christ in his preaching and in his Christ mysticism transcends his theory.

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## Christology

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Evagrius Ponticus (346-399) Altaner 306 ff. Grillmeier 291-299 His recently discovered <u>Kephalaia gnostika</u> reveal a prolongation of Origen's speculations. Christ is not the Logos but the eternal soul that remained faithful to the Logos. His anointing is his knowledge of the Logos. He has the function of being the Arian demiurge that created the world. It is **thex** this soul that becomes incarnate, that visits the underworld, etc.

<u>Nemesius of Emesa</u> c. 400 Altaner 272 Grillmeier 299-302 Wrote a neoplatonist On the nature of man much esteemed in the middle ages. Has a theory on the union of intelligibles and speculates on the unity of Logos and man in Christ.

Hilary of Poitiers c. 315-367 Altaner 423-428

307 Traditional christology of the church: he acknowledges the full manhood and true Godhead of Christ. He affirms the identity. The son of man is someone other than the son of God. Attacks those that separate body soul and divinity in Xt. Also attacks those that oversimplify and make him a mere man. Xt's existence does not begin at the Incarnation, and so one must distinguish the times: pre-existence, kenosis, exaltation 308 He understands kenosis as the renunciation of the forma Dei, but understands forma as others understood prosopon, namely, countenance, how we recognize someone, the idiomata. Such kenosis does not imply that the Word ceases to be God 309 He does not know how to make the human soul he acknowledges into a theological factor and so resorts to forced exegesis

He has exaggerated stoic views of apatheia and applies them to Christ in whom the divinity is divinizing the humanity 311 Abundant on the exaltation of Xt: what is carnal in him is devorured into the nature of spirit.

Jerome c. 347 - 419/420 Altaner 462-476

314 Non alius et alius, non duae personae, unus atque idem filius Dei et filius hominis

314 f He had a body as ours, had the passions and **kibida** libidines of a body, a true body and a true soul