



Ecclesiastical History

Part 6

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Council of Chalcedon

Who is Leo?



- He is known in the West as Leo the Great and is hailed by Rome as “*the father of papacy*” because he was the first bishop of Rome to become politically involved.
- **Since Leo accepted the heresy of Flavian, he was excommunicated by the pure mouth of Pope St. Dioscorus I and by 10 metropolitans and bishops at the holy city of Nicea between 449 and early 450 A.D.**

What is the Tome of Leo?

- It is a heretical letter that Leo, Bishop of Rome sent to Flavian, Bishop of Constantinople in 4 June 445 A.D.
- It is known in Arabic as “*Tomas Laown*”
- He taught that in Christ was two natures and not one composite nature or as he calls it “*a twofold nature*”.

Calling the Chalcedonian Council

- Leo sends a letter to the evil empress Polycaria in which he ask of her to pressure her husband the emperor Marcian to gather another ecumenical council to “clarify the faith”.
- As usual the Pope of Alexandria arrived along with his papal-attending bishops, the other senior bishops (of which many were Nestorian), the Imperial Judges, the emperor Marcian and even the Empress Polycaria!!!!!! !!!
- The evil Emperor Marcian himself called the bishops first to Nicea but then changed it to Chalcedon for fear of an Alexandrian victory because of the history of that city.
- The choice of Chalcedon was political motivated because Nicae would have been favourable to the Alexandrian bishops as it was once before in 325 A.D.
- 600 [Nestorian] Bishops signed the heretical Tome of Leo and the rulings of this unholy Council of Chalcedon.

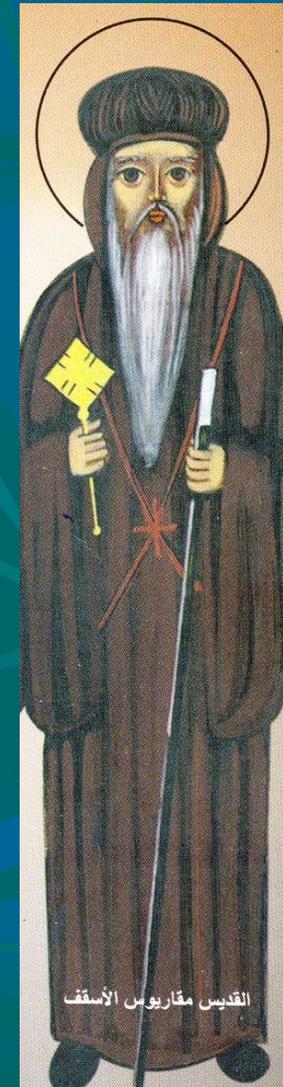
Coptic Delegation

Pope Saint Dioscorus
I of Alexandria came
along with 10
metropolitans and
bishops and Saint
Macarius, Bishop of
Edco the martyr.



Saint Macarius, Bishop of Edco

- Among the most distinguished of the Coptic Delegation was His Grace the Bishop-martyr, St. Macanus of Edco (Caou).
- At the imperial palace, the gate-guard prevented St. Macanus from entering saying that his poor-looking cloth are not fitting for entrance into the imperial court.
- Pope Dioscorius severely reprimanded him saying “Believe me son, the clothes of this old man are by far more pure than the heart of your emperor!”
- What amazing courage of our Pope in that even in the very palace of the emperor he would say such words!
- This confessing saint was martyred in Alexandria after this unholy council ended by a soldier of the governor of Alexandria who was under orders from the evil emperor Marcian.



Gathering at the Imperial Hall

- When Pope Dioscorus arrived at the Imperial Hall, he saw many bishops, this alarmed him and so he questioned the reason for such a large gathering.
- They said the Emperor needs clarification of the faith. He said *“the Faith is clear and great according to the confessions of the fathers, St. Athanasius and St. Cyril”*.

Leo and this Council

- Leo as stated earlier had sent his famous letter the heretic “*Tome of Leo*” (*Tomas Laawon*), in which he affirms “in Two Natures” after the union.
- It was Leo’s wish that his letter be the defining dogma of faith at Chalcedon, and so he planted as much support for his letter as possible, going to the extent of gathering signatures for it among every diocese and even getting the signature of Nestorius himself before his death in Upper Egypt!!!
- Not surprisingly, one of the Nestorian bishops approaches Pope Dioscorus with this proposal “*Please sign the letter, so that the emperor would keep you in your position*”.
- The Pope however replied: “*The affairs of the Church are not part of the duties of the Emperor, he should leave this to the Priests as they know the Books. It is better for him to steer away from evil and seek the peace of his empire*”.
- (What amazing courage! In the very palace of the emperor this is said.)

A Wake-Up Call

- Pope Dioscorus goes on to say to the bishops assembled: “*The Faith of the Church should not be changed as stated by the Fathers*” in the **7th Canon** of the Holy Ecumenical Council of Ephesus where it was forbidden for anyone to add or remove anything or change anything that the fathers laid down in Nicea, Constantinople and Ephesus.
- Furthermore, he re-established in their minds the sayings of Pope Saint Cyril especially his Fire & Iron Analogy.
- Pope Cyril compared the humanity to the iron and the divinity to the fire. He said that the suffering of Christ on the cross was like the beating of iron, the iron is reshaped by the beating but the fire is unaffected. Thus, the suffering was felt by the humanity while the fire itself [representing the divinity] did not become affected in anyway.
- As a result of this powerful wake-up call, most bishops were convinced but they were not driven by theological clarity but by the pain of divestment.

The Move to Chalcedon

- When the Nestorians felt that Pope Dioscorus was about to triumph in the Council, they called it off and ordered a recess until its opening in the city of Chalcedon.
- Knowing that their opponent, Pope Dioscorus is powerful and charismatic, they prepared for this Council very well, having the greatest number of hardcore Nestorian bishops attending.
- The Emperor, empress, imperial court, soldiers, and the judges of the councils all arrived.
- This session began with the Imperial Speech from the Throne.

False Accusations

- Then one of the representatives of Leo (the bishop Julius) rose up and objected to the 1st ecclesiastical seating of Pope Dioscorus, claiming that he is attending as one accused rather than a Pope.
- But, the judges proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that this is not the case and that he is an honourable member.
- Nevertheless out of pure humility and humbleness, Pope Dioscorus the most distinguished prelate and Pope in the Church, accepts the shame of sitting in the middle as one accused like his Master for the sake of the peace of the Church.
- However, as the first of discussion began, the evil purpose was exposed against Pope Dioscorus.
- Every 5 minutes one would arise and accuse Pope Dioscorus of violence against him or unrighteous condemnation.
- Others would say that they were forced to sign a blank sheet of paper two years ago at Ephesus II in 449A.D.

The Truth Comes Out

- Many claimed that he did not read Leo's Tome (which was a true statement).
- Seeing all this, the Pope said "If Eutyches denied the orthodox faith then he is not only worth of excommunication but of burning at the very stake!!!"
- These powerful words stroke the hearts of some and woke them up, and so a group of bishops rose up to say "we ask **absolution and forgiveness as we accused the Pope falsely of things he did not commit, God have mercy on our souls, we repeat requesting for absolution!**"

The Evil Scheme

- When the Nestorians saw that Pope Dioscorus was so about to triumph yet another time, they called for a recess and to re-open in 5 days.
- The Pope was residing in a compound close to the Council Church and outside his residence they set guards to prevent him from attending the council.
- They did this because they knew for certain that if he should attend then he would most certainly triumph.
- They then accused him of not attending even though they prevented him with soldiers.
- To force a decision, they opened the council in 3 and not 5 days without the attendance of the Pope, the Emperor, empress, soldiers, or the judges of the councils.
- In this session they finalize a decree against Pope Dioscorus by approving the decrease of all ecclesiastical power from him.

Pope Excommunicates Chalcedon

- They then sent Pope Dioscorus their decree.
- After gathering his bishops and reading this to them, he wrote on its margins **THE SUPREME PAPAL EXCOMUNICATION ON WHOEVER DARES TO CHANGE THE FAITH OR AGREES TO THIS HERESY OR BELIEVES IT.**
- They sent their decrees in a letter to the Emperor who had the Pope arrested and so was he eager to kill him!

Pope Dioscorus and St. John Chrysostom

- At the Imperial Palace, the evil Empress Policaria told Pope Saint Dioscorus thus: “Oh Dioscorus, in the time of my mother the Empress Eudoxia there was a strong-willed man like yourself and you know what a death he died due to the fact that he dared to displease her”.
- She was speaking of the late Patriarch of Constantinople, St. John Chrysostom who gave a sermon at his Cathedral in Constantinople in which he said thus: Herodias seeks the head of John on a silver platter, thus describing Eudoxia as the adulterous Queen Herodias and himself as the martyr, St. John the Baptist.
- This extremely infuriated Eudoxia so she pressured her husband hard and managed to secure exile for the saint.
- “And I see that his fate will be yours”
- The aged St. John Chrysostom died at the brutality of the soldiers hurrying him in his exile movements.

Policaria and Eudoxia

- Pope Dioscorius replied *“And do you know what has occurred to your mother as a result of her treatment of this saint? God severely plagued her with a mortal disease to which there is no cure. And she never recovered from her pains until she came repenting and weeping for her sins at his grave where she received the absolution! And I am in front of you unarmed do to me as you please and you will reap what your mother reaped!”*
- Upon hearing this insult, she slapped him with all her might across the face, pulling 3 teeth as he was an aged elder.
- And seeing their empress in a quarrel, the soldiers began hitting Pope Dioscorus and pulling the hairs of his beard a sign of disgrace.

The Papal Letter to Alexandria

- All that Pope Dioscorius said was “ For YOU we die all day long” (a saying of St. Paul).
- He then gathered the teeth and the hair and accompanied by a Holy Papal Apostolic Epistle he sent them to Alexandria with these words:

“These teeth and hair are the fruit of my struggle in defense of the Orthodox Faith. Be aware my little children how much I have suffered for the orthodox faith of my fathers. As for you who have built your Faith on the Rock of Orthodoxy, do not fear the heretical waves or the blasphemous Storms of Satan’s persecutions that are heading your way”.

The Exile to Gaghra

- Emperor Marcian was so eager to kill him but he feared his political power and sway over the entire world and so he sufficed himself with exiling him to Gaghra Island of Asia Minor.
- There Pope Dioscorus spent his last five years on earth taking care for the salvation of lost sheep of Christ.
- The bishop of the Island (Gaghra/Gangara) was Nestorian and he was mistreating Pope Dioscorus but upon seeing the miracles that God performed on his hands, he repented, changed his attitude and asked for absolution.

Martyrdom of St. Marcarius

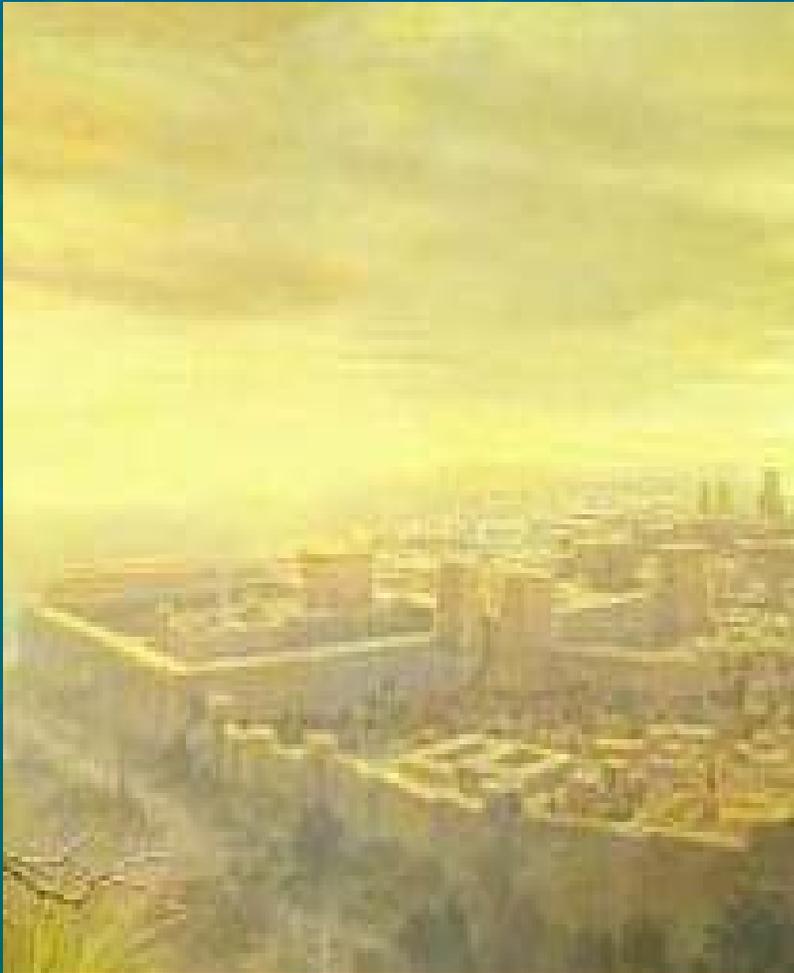
- Pope Dioscorus' right-hand bishop, St. Macarius of Edco was with him in his exile, however the Pope told him thus when they arrived at the Island "You my son have the Crown of Martyrdom awaiting you in Alexandria, be of good speed, take courage and fight the good war of faith for Christ!"
- With some loyal Alexandrian merchant ship, he sent the Bishop St. Macanus to Alexandria.
- In Alexandria, the Governor was raising a tremendous persecution of the Copts who were soul and mind loyal to the orthodox faith of the fathers.
- The Governor had the Bishop arrested at first sight of the ship in Alexandria.
- Then he asked him to deny the orthodox faith, so he refused.
- One of the soldiers kicked him hard in the side, hitting his liver and being an old man he fell died and thus gained the Crown of Martyrdom as prophesied by Pope Dioscorus.
- Pope Dioscorus however departed in the LORD on 11th of September of 457 A.D. may his holy blessings and prayers be with us all, and glory to God forever, Amen.

Bishop John of Western Egypt

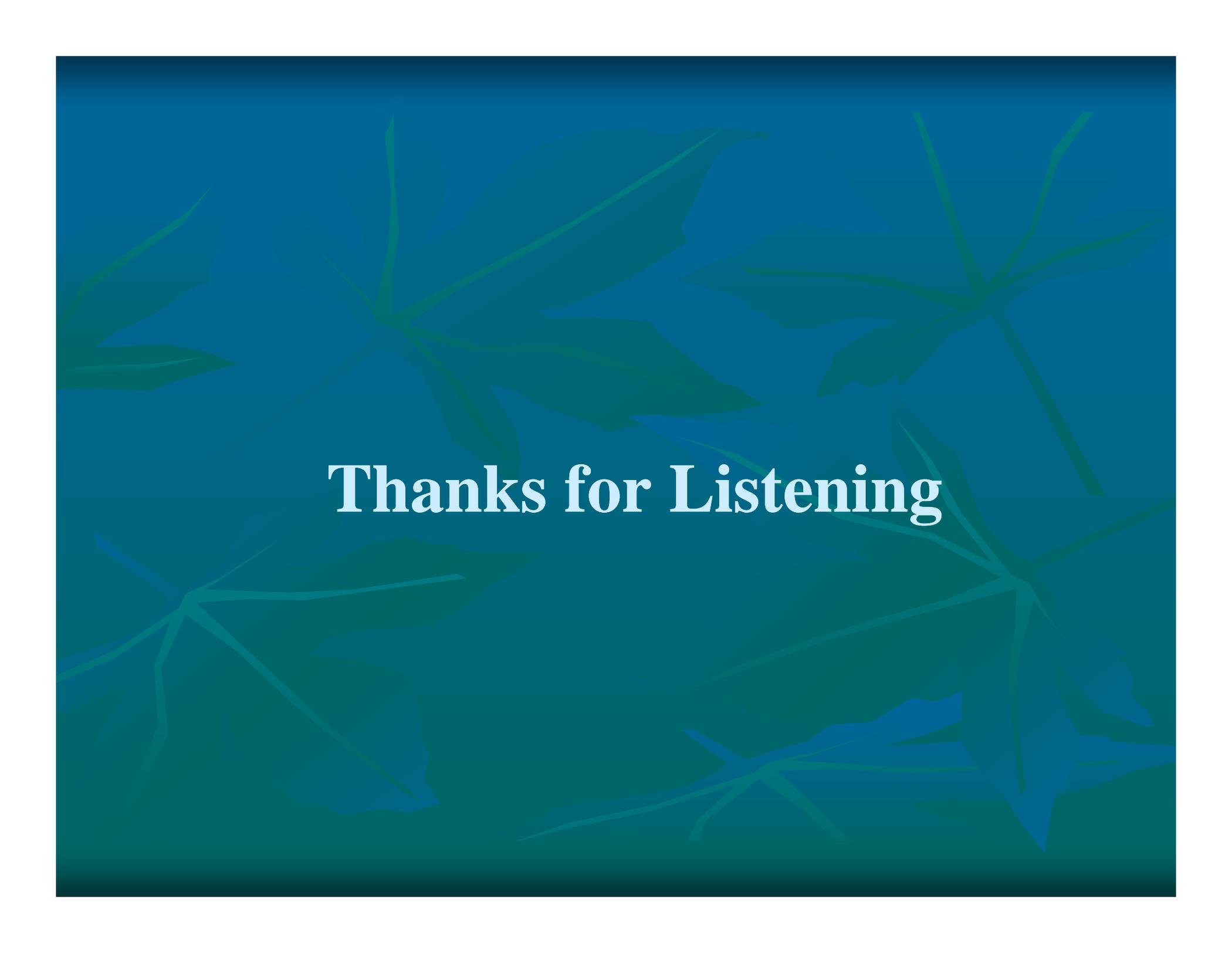
- **His Grace the late Bishop Younnis (John) of Gharbia** (Western Province of Egypt) wrote much of the history of these great councils in his Arabic book the Church Councils.
- He wrote in it: *“Thus the Christian World was divided into Chalcedonian and Non-Chalcedonian. Today we still suffer the effects of the evil seeds of heresy that Leo planted and his successors nourished”*



The Conclusion



- At the close of this council the Church was torn to two parts.

The background is a solid teal color with a pattern of stylized, overlapping leaf shapes in various shades of teal and blue. The leaves are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement.

Thanks for Listening