

GROUP 1



# SCIENCE WESTERN & EASTERN CHURCH

**What does the word  
"schism" mean in relation  
to churches or groups?**



A "schism" means a split or division between groups. In churches, it happens when people disagree on important beliefs or practices and decide to separate from each other. So, a schism is like when friends have a big argument and choose to go their own ways instead of staying together.

# Introduction

The Schism of the Western and Eastern Church is a famous split in the Christian Church that happened a long time ago, in the year 1054. Before the schism, there was just one Christian Church, but after the schism, it broke into two big groups: the Western Church and the Eastern Church.



# The Christian Church Before the Schism

Before the split, all Christians belonged to the same Church. The Church had two main centers: one in Rome, in the West, and the other in Constantinople, in the East. The leader of the Church in the West was called the Pope, while the leader of the Church in the East was called the Patriarch. They both worked together to lead the Christian Church.



# Why Did the Schism Happen?

Over time, the Christians in the West and the East started to do some things differently. They had different ways of praying and worshipping, and this led to misunderstandings.

One of the biggest reasons for the split was that the Pope in the West wanted to be the main leader for all Christians, but the Patriarch in the East did not agree. They also argued about several important beliefs. One key issue was about the Holy Spirit: the West believed the Holy Spirit came from both the Father and the Son, while the East believed it came only from the Father.

They also disagreed on other matters, such as the use of unleavened bread in communion (the West used it, while the East did not) and various church practices and customs. These disagreements caused growing tension between the two sides, leading to the schism.



# The Great Schism

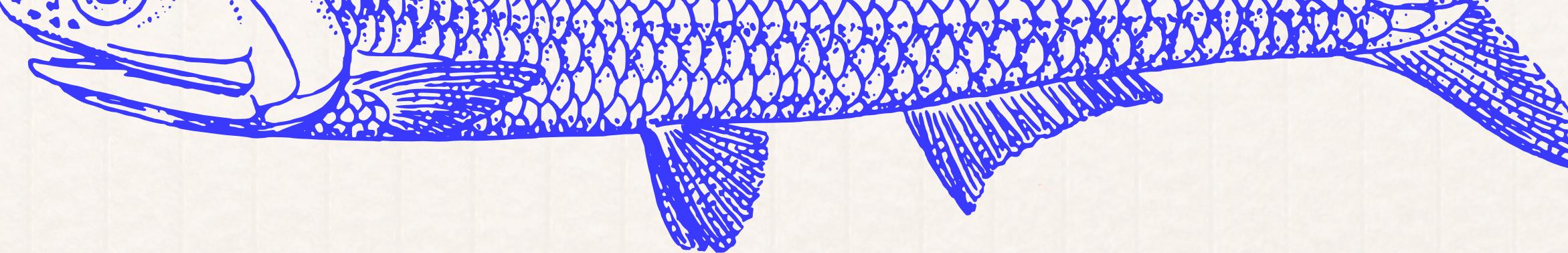
In the year 1054, the leaders of the Western Church and the Eastern Church had a big argument. The Pope and the Patriarch disagreed on several important issues, but the main reason for the argument was about who should be the leader of all Christians. The Pope, in the West, believed that he should have authority over the entire Church, including the Eastern part. However, the Patriarch, in the East, did not agree and thought that each part of the Church should have its own leader.

Because of this disagreement, both the Pope and the Patriarch decided to excommunicate each other. This means they said that the other could no longer be part of the Christian Church.

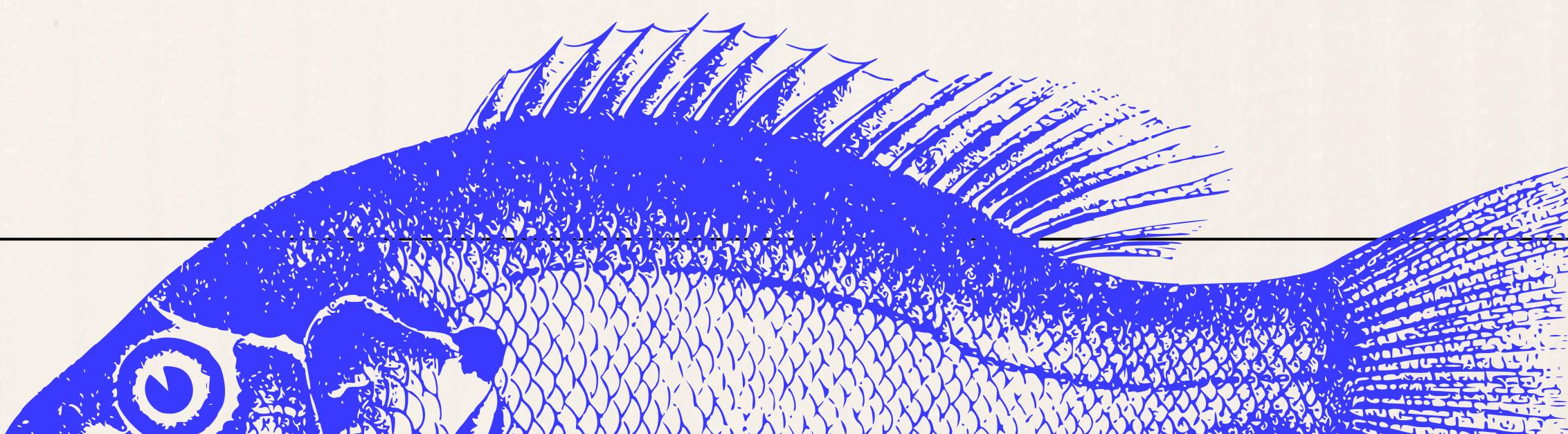
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This argument was the final break, and from that point on, the Church was officially divided into two:

- The Eastern Orthodox Church in the East: The Eastern Orthodox Church is led by many Patriarchs, with each Patriarch overseeing a different region or country. Unlike the Roman Catholic Church, there isn't just one leader for all Orthodox Christians. The Eastern Orthodox Church uses Greek or other local languages in its services and follows the customs and teachings that developed in the eastern part of the Christian world, such as in Greece, Russia, and other areas.
- The Roman Catholic Church in the West: The Roman Catholic Church is led by the Pope, who is considered the highest authority in the Church. The Roman Catholic Church uses Latin in its services and follows the traditions and teachings that developed in the western part of Europe. Today, the Roman Catholic Church is the largest Christian Church in the world.



# What Happened After the Schism?



After the schism, the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church became completely separate. Each Church kept its own traditions and beliefs.

The Roman Catholic Church is still led by the Pope, who resides in Rome. The Pope is seen as the spiritual leader of all Catholics around the world. The Roman Catholic Church emphasizes the importance of the sacraments, such as Baptism and Eucharist, and has a structured hierarchy of clergy, including bishops and priests. Over the centuries, it has played a significant role in Western culture, influencing art, education, and politics.

On the other hand, the Eastern Orthodox Church is not led by a single leader. Instead, it has many different Patriarchs who oversee the Church in various countries, such as Greece, Russia, and Serbia. Each Patriarch has authority over their own region, but they work together in matters of faith and practice. The Eastern Orthodox Church places a strong emphasis on tradition and the continuity of faith, with a focus on the Divine Liturgy as its central form of worship.

Even though the split happened nearly 1,000 years ago, both Churches still exist today and continue to follow Christianity in their own ways. They celebrate different major holidays, have unique customs, and interpret some beliefs differently. Despite these differences, both Churches share many fundamental beliefs, such as the importance of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Bible.

In recent years, there have been efforts to promote dialogue and understanding between the two Churches, as leaders from both sides have met to discuss their faiths and work toward unity. This shows that while the schism created a significant divide, there is also a desire for reconciliation and cooperation in the future.

# Conclusion

The Schism of the Western and Eastern Church was an important event in the history of Christianity. It led to the creation of two separate branches of the Christian faith: the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church.



# Conclusion

The impact of the schism was significant. It shaped the way Christianity developed in different regions, leading to distinct beliefs, practices, and traditions in each Church. The division also influenced political relationships in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, as each Church aligned with different rulers and cultures.



# Conclusion

Today, both the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church continue to practice Christianity in their own ways. They have their own unique customs, teachings, and governance, and the schism remains a key event that defines their identities.





**Thank you.**