Christianity in Context:

The Evolution of a Religion

First, There was One
Then, There were Two
And Then, There were Three

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Then there were TWO

Language

- **The Western half of the Empire spoke Latin**

- **The Eastern half spoke Greek**

- **This was challenging enough for regular conversations, let alone theological discussions**

Sign of the Cross

- **What is the correct way to do it?**

Celibacy

- Is it "better"/preferable/more spiritual for our priests and bishops to avoid marriage or to become married?

Purgatory

- Good people go to heaven
- Bad people go to hell
- What about those who are not good enough to go straight to heaven, but not bad enough to go straight to hell?

Icons

Idolatry?

- **Are icons truly "windows into the Divine" (East) or are they actually idols (West)?**

Filioque Controversy

- **What is the relationship among the three Persons—members—of the Trinity?**

- **The Spirit proceeds forth from the Father and the Son (West)**

- **The Spirit proceeds forth from the Father alone (East)**

- **NICENE CREED (two versions)**

Primacy of the Bishop of Rome

Does any bishop have the "trump card" up the sleeve of his ecclesiastical robes when it comes to decision-making?

No—East

Yes—West

Great Schism – 1054 A.D. First there was one, now there are two

- **Western Church—Latin Church with its major center in Rome—Roman Catholic Church**

- **Eastern Church—Greek Church with its major center in Constantinople—Eastern Orthodox Church**

Then there were THREE

Martin Luther
(1483 - 1546)

- **Video clip from the History Channel**
- **Three Distinctives of Protestantism:**
  (1517)

  Sola Fide

  Sola Scriptura

  The Priesthood of All Believers

First there was One
Then there were Two
And then there were Three

- **Eastern Orthodoxy—The Orthodox Church**

- **Roman Catholicism—The Roman Catholic Church**

- **Protestantism—The Protestant Church**

And then there were Many

- **Protestantism—fractures into "denominations"**

  - **Lutherans**
  - **Baptists**
  - **Presbyterians**
  - **Methodists**
  - **Disciples of Christ**
  - **Etc. Etc. Etc. (I stopped counting once at 500!)**

- **First there was One**
- **Then there were Two**
- **And then there were Three**
- **Finally there were Many**