**7 Church Councils**

**What are the 7 Ecumenical Church Councils?**

Here is the list of the first seven ecumenical councils accepted by Catholics, Orthodox, and many Protestant Christians:

**325**– 1st Ecumenical **Council of Nicaea** condemns Arius and clarifies the dogma of **Christ’s divin­ity** by expanding Creed’s 2nd stanz

**381**– 1st (Ecum) **Council of Constantinople** expands 3rd stanza of creed defining the **divinity of the Holy Spirit** and also condemns Apollinaris’s heresy that Jesus lacked a complete human soul

**431**– **Council of Ephesus defines Christ as the incarnate Word of God** and proclaims Mary *Theotokos* (“God-bearer” or “Mother of God”) after deposing Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople

**451**– Ecum. **Council of Chalcedon defines Christ as having both a divine and a human nature in one person**

**553**– 2nd (Ecum) **Council of Constantinople confirms Christological & trini­tarian doctrine**against the Nestorians

**680**– 3rd Ecum. **Council of Constantinople affirms that Jesus had a truly human will as well as a truly divine** will against the Monothelitism

**787**– **2nd Ecumenical Council of Nicaea vindicates the veneration of images based on the humanity of Christ as the image or icon of the unseen God.**

This last council is contested by some Evangelical protestants. Yes, it is ok to have paintings, art work of biblical people and Christian heroes of church history, but to use the word ‘veneration’ goes against our understanding of Scripture. We can appreciate good art but not to attribute any sacred qualities to art.