

CHURCH CANONS ON UNITY

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Source: D.Cummings, *The Rudder of the Holy Orthodox Christians or All the Sacred and Divine Canons*, Chicago, 1957

Canon 14 (Canons of the Holy Apostles)

A bishop is not allowed to leave his own parish, and pass over into another, although he may be pressed by many to do so, unless there be some proper cause constraining him (..) And this must be done not of his own accord, but by the judgement of many bishops, and at their earnest exhortion.

Canon 34 (Canons of the Holy Apostles)

It is the duty of every nation to know the one among them who is the first, and to recognize him as their head, and to refrain from doing anything unnecessary without his advice and approval; instead, each of them should do only whatever is necessitated by his own district and by the territories under him. But let not even such a one do anything without the advice and consent and approval of all. For only thus there be concord, and will God be glorified through the Lord in Holy Spirit, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Canon 8 (1st Ecumenical Council, Nicaea, 325)

(...) For in one city there shall not be two bishops.

Canon 15 (1st Ecumenical Council, Nicaea, 325)

Neither bishop, presbyter, nor deacon shall pass from city to city. But they shall be sent back, should they attempt to do so, to the churches in which they were ordained.

Canon 2 (2nd Ecumenical Council, Constantinople, 381)

The bishops are not to go beyond their dioceses nor bring confusion on the churches; but the Churches of God in heathen nations must be governed according to the custom which has prevailed from the time of the Fathers.

Canon 23 (Synod of Carthage, 419)

That any province on account of its distance can have its own primate.

Canon (3rd Ecumenical Council, Ephesus, 431)

None of the God-beloved bishops shall assume control of any province which has not heretofore, from the very beginning, been under his own hand or that of his predecessors.

Canon 28 (4th Ecumenical Council, Chalcedon, 451)

For the Fathers rightly granted privileges to the throne of Old Rome, because it was the royal city, and the 150 most religious Bishops actuated by the same consideration, gave equal privileges to the most holy throne of New Rome (...) should also in ecclesiastical matters also be magnified as she is, and ranks next after her; so that in the Pontic, the Asian and the Thracian dioceses, the metropolitans only and such bishops also of the Dioceses aforesaid as are among the barbarians, should also be ordained by the aforesaid most holy throne of the most holy Church of Constantinople.

Canon 20 (6th Ecumenical Council, Constantinople, 680-681)

It shall not be lawful for a bishop to teach publicly in any city which does not belong to him. If any have been observed doing this, let him cease from his episcopate.