

## Church Fathers / Episode 5 / St. John of Damascus

Video	Audio
	<p>&lt;&lt;CAM 1&gt;&gt;            Hello and Welcome to this edition of Wisdom of the Fathers.</p>
Att. Picture of the Church (1).	The Catholic faith is one of rich intellectual tradition ... stretching all the way back to the time of Christ.
Att. Picture of the Ascension (2).	When Christ ascended into Heaven ... He left us a church that was in its infancy ... in its self-understanding.
Att. Picture of the Bible (3).	This infancy created a NEED within in the church for individuals to RISE UP ... think about ... pray over ... and meditate upon what God was revealing.
Att. Picture of Church Fathers (4).	The answer to this NEED was the Church Fathers ... certain individuals who were intellectual giants ... gifted with the ability to either break down an article of faith into its simplest form or develop it further.
Att. Picture of Catholics in the Pews (5).	They did this so 'we' ordinary Catholics could understand the fullness of what Jesus was trying to purport to us in sacred scripture and apostolic tradition ... also known as the Deposit of Faith.
Att. Picture of St. John of Damascus (6).	<p>In this fifth episode of Wisdom of the Fathers we're going to talk about Saint John of Damascus ... a noteworthy Church Father. &lt;&lt;CAM 2&gt;&gt;</p> <p>Now ... before we get into the fine points of his life ... let's step back for one split second and measure the influence of this man.</p>
Type on ... "Chrysorrhoeas = Streaming	St. John of Damascus was also known as

<p>with Gold, or Golden Speaker”.</p> <p>Att. Picture of the Assumption (7).</p> <p>Att. Picture of a hymn (8).</p>	<p>John Damascene ... Chrysorrhoas ..., which means “streaming with gold” ... or the golden speaker. He was a polymath whose fields of interest and contribution included law ... theology ... philosophy ... and music. He is often referred to as the Doctor of the Assumption due to his writings on the Assumption of Mary.</p> <p>St. John of Damascus has the double honor of being the last of the Greek Fathers of the Church and the greatest of her poets. He wrote works expounding the Christian faith ... and composed hymns. He was chiefly known for his ability to compile information into an encyclopedia and he is famous for his strong defense of icons.</p> <p>Some consider him the originator of the Scholastics ... while others view him as the initial Scholastic ... and his work ... “Of Orthodoxy” ... is seen as the principal compilation of Scholasticism.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of Damascus (9).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Syria (17).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Greek and Muslim books (10)(11).</p> <p>Att. Picture of a monk (12)(16).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Life of St. John of Damascus</b></p> <p>&lt;&lt;CAM 1&gt;&gt;</p> <p>John was born into a prominent family in Damascus in 676 A.D. He was brought up under Muslim rule.</p> <p>His father was a Christian and worked as head of the tax department for Syria. He wanted John to learn not only the books of the Muslims ... but those of the Greeks as well. It is from this desire that John became bilingual.</p> <p>When John reached the age of 23 his father searched for a Christian tutor capable of giving his son the best education the age afforded. He found a Sicilian monk named Cosmas in the</p>

<p>Att. Type on ... “Algebra ... Geometry ... Music ... Astronomy ... Theology”.</p>	<p>marketplace. He was being held captive as a result of a raid for prisoners of war that had taken place in the coasts of Italy. This man turned out to be an erudite of great knowledge and wisdom.</p> <p>John was a precocious student ... making rapid progress in algebra ... geometry ... music ... astronomy ... and theology.</p> <p>&lt;&lt;CAM 2&gt;&gt;</p>
<p>Att. Type on Iconoclast heresy.</p>	<p>Once his father died ... John was made chief councilor of Damascus. It was during this period that the Church in the East began to fight the Iconoclast heresy.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of the Byzantine Empire (13).</p>	<p>The Iconoclast heresy was an argument over the use of religious images in the Byzantine Empire during the 8th and 9th centuries. The Iconoclasts ... those who discarded images ... objected to icon worship for numerous reasons ... including the Old Testament ban against images in the Ten Commandments ... and the possibility of idolatry. The defenders of icon worship ... on the other hand ... insisted on the symbolic nature of images and on the dignity of created matter.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of St. Sabas Monastery (14).</p>	<p>In the course of his defense for the Church ... John heard a call to a higher life. He then left his position and entered the monastery of St. Sabas ... which is 18 miles southeast of Jerusalem. After the usual probation ... he was also ordained a priest in 735 ... at the age of 59.</p> <p>&lt;&lt;CAM 1&gt;&gt;</p>
<p>Att. Picture of John (15).</p>	<p>John died in 749 ... at the age of 73 ... as a revered Father of the Church ... and is recognized as a saint. He wrote works expounding the Christian faith ... and composed hymns.</p>

	<p>Now that we have an understanding of who Saint John of Damascus was ... let's take a look at what he had to say about the filioque. &lt;&lt;CAM 2&gt;&gt;</p>
<p>Att. Granite Background (for all quotes); change color of background for each quote.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>John of Damascus on the Filioque</b></p> <p>"Likewise we believe also in one Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life . . . God existing and addressed along with Father and Son; uncreated, full, creative, all-ruling, all-effecting, all-powerful, of infinite power; Lord of all creation and not under any lord; deifying, not deified; filling, not filled; sharing in, not shared in; sanctifying, not sanctified; the intercessor, receiving the supplications of all; in all things like to the Father and Son; proceeding from the Father and communicated through the Son" (<i>Exposition of the Orthodox Faith</i> 8 [A.D. 712]).</p> <p>"And the Holy Spirit is the power of the Father revealing the hidden mysteries of his divinity, proceeding from the Father through the Son in a manner known to himself, but different from that of generation" (<i>ibid.</i>, 12).</p> <p>"I say that God is always Father since he has always his Word [the Son] coming from himself and, through his Word, the Spirit issuing from him" (<i>Dialogue Against the Manicheans</i> 5 [A.D. 728]).</p>
<p>Att. Russell on screen; no pictures or animations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>&lt;&lt;CAM 2&gt;&gt;</p> <p>Well ... that's all for this episode! Thank you for tuning in to Wisdom of the</p>

	<p>Fathers!</p> <p>AND make sure to catch us next time ... where we discuss our next Church Father ... Clement of Alexandria and what he had to say about the sin of homosexuality.</p> <p>I'm Russell Voris. God Bless!</p>
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