

## **Constantine the Great and his Attitude towards the Bishops of the Christian Church**

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### **Abstract**

Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) had since his early reign a completely different attitude towards christians unlike his predecessors who had almost all been persecutors of christianity. This attitude was due to his family education, his father's attitude, Constantius Chlorus who had been permissive towards christians and also due to the fact that he had seen so many martyrs of the church in Diocletian's time who had died courageously for their faith. Since his arrival on the throne, but especially after the year 312, after the event of Mediolanum, Constantine, even though he was a pagan by roman laws, demonstrated a firm and progressive faith in the favor of Christianity. In relation to the bishops of the christian church he had proved his piety and had taken good care of them. He passed a law through which he granted them benefits, *munera*, he promoted the symbols of christianity, gave the imperial buildings to the bishops in order to be converted into basilicas. He convoked local synods such as those of Arelate, Constantinople in order to resolve the disputes between christians, and furthermore, he convoked the first Ecumenical Synod at Nickea. He took part alongside bishops in this synod, speaking latin and greek, continuously urging the bishops to understand that the real philosophers did not get involved in the dogmatic disputes and promoted through statal edicts the decisions of the Holy Fathers.