

## Constantine to the Council of Tyre

<i>Reference:</i>	Mel. 26, FNS 68
<i>Incipit:</i>	Ἔν μὲν ἴσως ἀκόλουθον
<i>Date:</i>	335
<i>Greek Text:</i>	Eusebius, <i>Vita Const.</i> 4.42
<i>Other Ancient Source:</i>	Theodoret <i>HE</i> 1.29.1-6
<i>English Translation:</i>	NPNF <sup>2</sup> 3.27:61-62, adapted for FCC by SMT and JTS

This is the official summons to the Council of Tyre. Constantine clearly desires peace and unity within the church. This council is meant to rectify that, and Constantine wishes all of the charges against Athanasius to be resolved as quickly as possible. In fact, he even attaches banishment to those who would decline the call to this Council.

The Greek text below is that of F. Winkelmann, GCS (Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 1975) ss.3-151. The English translation has been adapted from B. Jackson, NPNF<sup>2</sup> 3.27:61-62 by SMT for FCC. It has been further adapted by JTS to account for differences between Theodoret and Eusebius.

The derivative translation below is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).

Νικητῆς Κωνσταντίνου Μέγιστος Σεβαστὸς τῇ ἁγίᾳ συνόδῳ τῇ κατὰ Τύρον.	Conqueror Constantine, Maximus, Augustus to the holy council assembled in Tyre.
Ἔν μὲν ἴσως ἀκόλουθον καὶ τῇ τῶν καιρῶν εὐκαιρία μάλιστα πρέπον ἀστασίαστον εἶναι τὴν καθολικὴν ἐκκλησίαν καὶ πάσης λοιδορίας τοῦ τοῦ Χριστοῦ νῦν ἀπηλλάχθαι θεράποντας. ἐπεὶ δ' οὐχ ὑγιοῦς φιλονεικίας οἴστρω τινὲς ἐλαυνόμενοι (οὐ γὰρ ἂν εἴποιμι βιοῦντες ἑαυτῶν ἀξίως <sup>1</sup> ), τὰ πάντα συγχέειν ἐπιχειροῦσιν, ὅπερ πάσης συμφορᾶς ἐπέκεινα κεχωρηκένοι μοι δοκεῖ, τούτου χάριν θεόντας ὑμᾶς, τὸ τοῦ λόγου, προτρέπομαι χωρὶς τινος ὑπερθέσεως εἰς ταῦτ' ἀσυνδραμεῖν, πληρῶσαι τὴν σύνοδον, ἐπαμῦναι τοῖς χρήζουσιν ἐπικουρίας, τοὺς ἀδελφούς ἰάσασθαι <sup>2</sup> κινδυνεύοντας, εἰς ὁμόνοιαν ἐπαναγαγεῖν τὰ διεστῶτα τῶν μελῶν, διορθώσασθαι τὰ πλημμελούμενα, ἕως καιρὸς ἐπιτρέπει, ἵνα ταῖς τοσαύταις ἐπαρχίαις τὴν πρέπουσαν ἀποδόσῃτε συμφωνίαν, ἣν, φεῦ τῆς ἀτοπίας, ἐλαχίστων ἀνθρώπων ἀπώλεσεν ὑπεροψία.	In the general prosperity which distinguishes the present time, it seems right that the catholic Church should likewise be exempt from trouble, and that the servants of Christ should be freed from every reproach. But certain individuals instigated by the mad desire of contention (I am not saying they lead a life worthy of their profession) are endeavoring to throw all into disorder. This appears to me to be the greatest of all possible calamities. I beseech you, therefore, in post haste, as the phrase goes, assemble together, without any delay, in formal synod; so that you may support those who require your assistance, heal the brethren who are in danger, restore unanimity to the divided members, and rectify the disorders of the Church while time permits; and thus restore to those great provinces the harmony which, alas, the arrogance of a few men has destroyed.

<sup>1</sup> Theodoret ἀναξίως

<sup>2</sup> Theodoret ἰατρεῦσαι

<p>ὅτι δὲ τοῦτο καὶ τῷ δεσπότη τῶν ὄλων θεῷ ἐστὶν ἀρεστον καὶ ἡμῖν πάσης εὐχῆς ὑπέρτερον καὶ ὑμῖν αὐτοῖς, ἐὰν γε τὴν εἰρήνην ἀνακαλέσησθε, οὐ τῆς τυχοῦσης αἴτιον<sup>3</sup> εὐδοξίας, πάντας ἀνθρώπους συνομολογεῖν ἡγοῦμαι.</p>	<p>I believe everyone would admit that you could not perform anything so pleasing in the sight of God, so surpassing all my prayers as well as your own, or so conducive to your own reputation, as to restore peace.</p>
<p>μὴ τοίνυν μέλλετε λοιπόν, ἀλλ' ἐπιτείναντες ἐντεῦθεν ἤδη τὰ τῆς προθυμίας, τοῖς προκειμένοις ὅρον ἐπιτείνειν σπουδάσατε τὸν προσήκοντα, μετὰ πάσης εἰλικρινείας δηλαδὴ καὶ πίστεως συνελθόντες, &lt;ἦν&gt; ἕκασταχοῦ μόνον οὐχὶ φωνὴν ἀφίεις ὁ σωτὴρ ἐκεῖνος ᾧ λατρεύομεν ἀπαιτεῖ μάλιστα παρ' ὑμῶν. οὐδὲν δὲ τῶν εἰς τὴν ἐμὴν εὐλάβειαν ἡκόντων ὑμῖν ἐνδεήσει. πάντα μοι πέπρακται ὅσα γράφοντες ἐδηλώσατε.</p>	<p>Therefore do not delay, but when you have come together will all that sincerity and fidelity which our Savior demands of all His servants, almost in words that we can hear, endeavor with redoubled eagerness to put a fitting end to these dissensions. Nothing shall be omitted on my part to further the interest of our religion. I have done all that you recommended in your letters.</p>
<p>ἐπέστειλα πρὸς οὓς ἐβουλήθητε τῶν ἐπισκόπων, ἵνα παραγενόμενοι κοινωνήσωσιν ὑμῖν τῶν φροντισμάτων, ἀπέστειλα Διονύσιον τὸν ἀπὸ ὑπατικῶν, ὃς καὶ τοὺς ὀφείλοντας εἰς τὴν σύνοδον ἀφικέσθαι μεθ' ὑμῶν ὑπομνήσει, καὶ τῶν πραττομένων ἐξαιρέτως δὲ τῆς εὐταξίας κατὰ σκοπος παρέσται.</p>	<p>I have sent to those bishops whom you specified, directing them to report to the council for the purpose of deliberating with you upon ecclesiastical matters. I have also sent Dionysius, a man of consular rank, to counsel those who are to sit in synod with you, and to be himself an eye witness of your proceedings, and particularly of the order and regularity that is maintained.</p>
<p>ἐὰν γάρ τις, ὡς ἐγὼ οὐκ οἶομαι, τὴν ἡμετέραν κέλευσιν καὶ νῦν διακρούσασθαι πειρώμενος μὴ βουληθῆ παραγενέσθαι, ἐντεῦθεν παρ' ἡμῶν ἀποσταλήσεται, ὃς ἐκ βασιλικοῦ προστάγματος αὐτὸν ἐκβαλὼν ὡς οὐ προσῆκεν ὅροις αὐτοκράτορος ὑπὲρ τῆς ἀληθείας ἐξενεχθεῖσιν ἀντιτείνειν διδάξει.</p>	<p>If anyone should dare on the present occasion also to disobey our command, and refuse to come to the council, which, however, I do not anticipate, an officer will be dispatched immediately to send him into banishment by imperial order, that he may learn not to oppose the decrees enacted by the emperor for the support of truth.</p>
<p>λοιπὸν ἔσται τῆς ὑμετέρας ὁσιότητος ἔργον ὁμογνώμονι κρίσει, μήτε πρὸς ἀπέχθειαν μήτε πρὸς χάριν, ἀκολούθως δὲ τῷ ἐκκλησιαστικῷ καὶ ἀποστολικῷ κανόνι, τοῖς πλημμεληθεῖσιν εἴτ' οὖν κατὰ σφάλμα συμβεβηκόσι τὴν ἀρμόττουσαν θεραπείαν ἐπινοῆσαι, ἵνα καὶ πάσης βλασφημίας ἐλευθερώσητε τὴν ἐκκλησίαν καὶ τὰς ἐμὰς ἐπικουφίσγητε φροντίδας καὶ τὴν τῆς εἰρήνης χάριν τοῖς νῦν στασιαζομένοις ἀποδόντες μεγίστην εὐκλειαν ὑμῖν αὐτοῖς προξενήσητε.</p>	<p>All that now devolves upon your holinesses is to decide with unanimous judgment, without partiality or prejudice, in accordance with the ecclesiastical and apostolical rule, and to devise suitable remedies for the offenses which may have resulted from error; in order that the Church may be freed from all reproach, that my anxiety may be diminished, that peace may be restored to those now at variance, and that your renown may be increased.</p>
<p>ὁ θεὸς ὑμᾶς διαφυλάττοι, ἀδελφοὶ ἀγαπητοί.</p>	<p>May God preserve you, beloved brethren.</p>

Created by SMT

Last updated 04/01/2025 JTS

<sup>3</sup> Theodoret ἄξιον

