

# 4 Step-by-Step Instruction

## Objectives

As you teach this section, keep students focused on the following objectives to help them answer the Section Focus Question and master core content.

- Understand the diverse religions included in the early Roman empire.
- Summarize the teachings of Jesus and how they were spread.
- Outline the development of the early Christian Church.

## Prepare to Read

### Build Background Knowledge L3

Tell students that almost three centuries would pass from the birth of Christianity to its acceptance as the official religion of the Roman empire. Have students speculate about why Roman emperors might have resisted the new religion.

### Set a Purpose L3

- **WITNESS HISTORY** Read the selection aloud or play the audio.

 **WITNESS HISTORY Audio CD,**  
Roman Emperor Accepts Christianity

Ask **What did Emperor Constantine think his vision of a cross in the sky meant?** (*It was a sign that his troops who were about to go into battle would be successful if they marked their shields with a Christian symbol.*)

- **Focus** Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (*Answer appears with Section 4 Assessment answers.*)
- **Preview** Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.
- **Note Taking** Have students read this section using the Structured Read Aloud strategy (TE, p. T21). As they read, have students fill in the chart showing the rise of Christianity.

 **Reading and Note Taking**  
Study Guide, p. 54

# 4

Renaissance painter Raphael depicted the cross appearing above Constantine (right); the fish and the cross (far right) were early Christian symbols.



## WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

### Roman Emperor Accepts Christianity

The Roman empire was tolerant of different religions, but it was almost 300 years before a Roman emperor fully supported the new religion of Christianity. Legend has it that the emperor Constantine—just before battle—saw a cross in the sky along with the words “By this you shall conquer.” He had his troops mark their shields with a Christian symbol. After winning the battle, he fully embraced Christianity.

**Focus Question** How did Christianity emerge and then spread to become the official religion of the Roman empire?

## The Rise of Christianity

### Objectives

- Understand the diverse religions included in the early Roman empire.
- Summarize the teachings of Jesus and how they were spread.
- Outline the development of the early Christian Church.

### Terms, People, and Places

messiah	bishop
apostle	patriarch
Paul	pope
martyr	heresy
Constantine	Augustine
clergy	

### Note Taking

**Reading Skill: Understand Effects** As you read, fill in a chart like the one below with factors that allowed the rise of Christianity and its establishment as the official religion of the Roman empire.

Causes	Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rise of Christianity</li> <li>• Establishment of Christianity as empire's official religion</li> </ul>

Early in the Pax Romana, a new religion, Christianity, arose in a distant corner of the Roman empire. At first, Christianity was one of many religions practiced in the empire. But the new faith grew rapidly, and throughout the A.D. 380s and 390s it was gradually made the official religion of the Roman empire. As it gained strength and spread through the empire, Christianity reshaped Roman beliefs. When the Roman empire fell, the Christian Church took over much of its role, becoming the central institution of Western civilization for nearly 1,000 years.

### Early Empire Includes Diverse Religions


Within the culturally diverse Roman empire, various religious beliefs coexisted. Jupiter, Mars, Juno, and other traditional Roman gods remained important. However, a growing number of people looked elsewhere for spiritual fulfillment.

**Rome Tolerates Diversity** Some people turned to the so-called mystery religions, which emphasized secret rituals and promised special rewards. One of the most popular of these was the cult of Isis, which started in Egypt and offered women equal status with men. Roman soldiers favored the cult of the Persian god Mithras, who championed good over evil and offered life after death.

Generally, Rome tolerated the varied religious traditions of its subjects. As long as citizens showed loyalty by honoring Roman gods and acknowledging the divine spirit of the emperor, the government allowed them to worship other gods as they pleased. Because most people were polytheistic, they were content to worship the Roman gods along with their own.

## Vocabulary Builder

Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use word from this section.

 **Teaching Resources, Unit 1, p. 88; Teaching Resources, Skills Handbook, p. 3**

### High-Use Word

comply, p. 169

### Definition and Sample Sentence

*vi.* to obey or conform to something  
When the police officer asked her to show her driver's license, she quickly complied.



**Divisions Arise in Judea** By 63 B.C., the Romans had conquered Judea, where most Jews of the time lived. To avoid violating the Jewish belief in one god, the Romans excused Jews from worshipping Roman gods. Among the Jewish people themselves, however, religious ferment was creating deep divisions. During the Hellenistic age, many Jews absorbed Greek customs and ideas. Concerned about the weakening of their religion, Jewish conservatives rejected these influences and called for strict obedience to Jewish laws and traditions.

While most Jews were reluctantly willing to live under Roman rule, others, called Zealots, were not. They called on Jews to revolt against Rome and reestablish an independent state. Some Jews believed that a **messiah**, or anointed king sent by God, would soon appear to lead their people to freedom.

**A Jewish Rebellion Is Defeated** In A.D. 66, discontent flared into rebellion. Four years later, Roman forces crushed the rebels, captured Jerusalem, and destroyed the Jewish temple. When revolts broke out again in the next century, Roman armies leveled Jerusalem. Thousands of Jews were killed in the fighting, and many others were enslaved and transported to various parts of the empire. Faced with the destruction that resulted from the rebellions, growing numbers of Jews decided to leave Judea.

Although the Jewish people were defeated in their efforts to regain political independence, they survived in scattered communities around the Mediterranean. Over the centuries, Jewish religious teachers called rabbis extended and preserved the Jewish law, and Judaism survived.

**Checkpoint** What was Rome's policy toward most of the religions in the empire?

## Jesus Proclaims His Teachings

As turmoil engulfed the Jews in Judea, a new religion, Christianity, arose among them. It began among the followers of a Jew named Jesus. Almost all the information we have about the life of Jesus comes from the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament of the Christian Bible. Early Christians attributed the writing of these accounts to four followers of Jesus—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.



### The Limits of Tolerance

The Romans' destruction of Jerusalem's temple in A.D. 70 (above left) was a massive assault against revolt. Three years later, rebellion against Rome ended with the siege of Masada (above right), a mountaintop fortress at which nearly 1,000 Jews may have taken their own lives to avoid being killed by Romans. *Why would a government only believe in toleration to a certain point?*

## Teach

### Early Empire/Jesus Proclaims His Teachings

#### Instruct

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- **Introduce: Key Term** Have students find the key term **messiah** (in blue) in the text and explain its meaning. Have them suggest reasons the belief in a messiah might concern Roman officials. (*might lead to questioning of the emperor's authority*)
- **Teach** Ask **What were citizens of different faiths expected to do in exchange for toleration of their religious beliefs and practices?** (*show loyalty to Rome by honoring Roman gods and acknowledging the divine spirit of the emperor*) **What was the outcome of the Zealot revolt?** (*Roman forces crushed the rebels, captured Jerusalem, and destroyed the Jewish temple. In the next century Roman armies leveled Jerusalem and Jews were dispersed.*) **What new beliefs attracted many followers to Jesus?** (*the belief that Jesus was the messiah and would bring spiritual salvation and eternal life to those who believed in him*) Then read aloud the Primary Source selection on the next page or play the accompanying audio. Ask students to name the values that are reflected in the sermon.

**AUDIO** Witness History Audio CD, Sermon on the Mount

#### Independent Practice

**Viewpoints** To help students understand the treatment of Christians in the Roman Empire, have them read the selection *What To Do About the Christians?* and complete the worksheet.

**Teaching Resources, Unit 1, p. 93**

#### Monitor Progress

As students fill in their charts, circulate to make sure they have identified the causes of the rise of Christianity. For a completed version of the chart see

**Note Taking Transparencies, 70**

#### Answers

- tolerance of varied religious traditions and practices as long as citizens showed loyalty by honoring Roman gods and acknowledging the divine spirit of the emperor

**Caption** Too much tolerance could lead to instability if groups questioned the authority of the government.

## History Background

**Surviving in the Diaspora** Over the centuries, many Jews left or were forced to leave their homeland in Judea. They settled in lands around the Mediterranean and elsewhere. In time, many of those who migrated began to speak Greek. Two Greek words became an important part of Jewish history. The Greek word *diaspora* which means "scattering" refers to the

fact that most Jews were forced to migrate and settle in various parts of the world. The Greek word *synagogue*, "a bringing together" became the name for the places where Jews gather to read their most sacred book, the Torah. Synagogues have helped Jewish culture survive and thrive in the diaspora.



## The Message of Christianity Spreads

L3

### Instruct

- **Introduce: Key Terms** Have students find the term **martyr** (in blue) in the text. Ask them to define this term and suggest possible reasons why the Romans persecuted the Christians. Ask students whether they think the persecution of Christians and the creation of martyrs helped or hurt the growth of Christianity.
- **Teach** Ask **How did Paul spread Christianity?** (*He traveled around the Mediterranean and set up churches in Asia Minor and Greece; he wrote long letters to Christian communities explaining difficult doctrines, judging disputes, and expanding Christian teachings.*) **What was the effect of Paul's missionary work?** (*Christianity began to grow from a sect within Judaism to an emerging world religion.*) **Why did the Romans persecute Christians?** (*They suspected Christians of disloyalty to Rome.*) **How did the unity of the empire make missionary efforts easier?** (*The unity of the empire and common languages made communication of Christian beliefs easier; Roman roads facilitated missionary travel.*)

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus (below) summarized his ethical message, which echoed Jewish ideas of mercy and sympathy for the poor and helpless. What does he say is the reward for being merciful?

#### Primary Source

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”

—Matthew 5:5–9



**Jesus Begins Preaching** Jesus was born about 4 B.C. in Bethlehem, near Jerusalem. According to the Gospels, he was a descendant of King David of Israel. The Gospels say an angel told Jesus' mother, Mary, that she would give birth to the messiah. “He will be great,” said the angel, “and will be called the Son of the Most High God.”

Growing up in the small town of Nazareth, Jesus worshiped God and followed Jewish law. As a young man, he may have worked as a carpenter. At the age of 30, the Gospels relate, he began preaching to villagers near the Sea of Galilee. Large crowds gathered to hear his teachings, especially when word spread that he had performed miracles of healing. Jesus often used parables, or short stories with simple moral lessons, to communicate his ideas. He recruited 12 of his disciples, or close followers, to help him in his mission. He called these 12 the **apostles**, a name that in Greek means “a person sent forth.” After three years, Jesus and his disciples went to Jerusalem to spread his message there.

**Jesus Teaches New Beliefs** Jesus' teachings were firmly rooted in Jewish tradition. Jesus believed in one God and accepted the Ten Commandments. He preached obedience to the laws of Moses and defended the teachings of the Jewish prophets. However, Jesus also preached new beliefs. According to his followers, he called himself the Son of God. Many people believed he was the long-anticipated messiah. Jesus proclaimed that his mission was to bring spiritual salvation and eternal life to anyone who believed in him.

Echoing the teachings of Judaism, Jesus emphasized God's love and taught the need for justice, morality, and service to others. According to Jesus, a person's major duties were to observe the Jewish command to “love the Lord your God with all your heart” and to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus also emphasized the importance of forgiveness.

**Condemned to Death** According to the Gospels, Jesus traveled to Jerusalem near the time of the Jewish festival of Passover, a celebration of the exodus from Egypt. To the Roman authorities, Jesus was a threat because his speeches could inflame those eager to end Roman rule.

The Gospels state that Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples. He was then arrested by the Romans, tried, and condemned to death by crucifixion. In this method of execution, which the Romans often used, a person was nailed or bound to a cross and left to die. Jesus' crucifixion threw his disciples into confusion. But then rumors spread through Jerusalem that Jesus was not dead at all. The Gospels report that his disciples saw and talked with Jesus, who had risen from death. The Gospels go on to say that Jesus, after commanding his disciples to spread his teachings to all people, ascended into heaven.

✓ **Checkpoint** What aspects of Jesus' message were unique?

## The Message of Christianity Spreads

After Jesus' death, the apostles and other disciples did spread his message. At first, they preached only among the Jews of Judea. Some Jews accepted the teaching that Jesus was the messiah, or the Christ, from the Greek word for “anointed one.” Soon, they were called Christians.

### Answers

- ✓ Jesus called himself the son of God and proclaimed that his mission was to bring spiritual salvation and eternal life to those who believed in him. He emphasized God's love and taught the need for justice, morality, and service to others. Jesus also stressed the importance of forgiveness.

**PRIMARY SOURCE** People who are merciful will be treated mercifully themselves.

### Link to Art

**Christianity in Art** Many masterpieces of Renaissance art take their inspiration from the life of Jesus. The Last Supper, an event described in all four of the Gospels, was the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples before his crucifixion. This event has been the subject of many famous art works. During early Christian times, pictures of this last supper appeared in the

catacombs of Rome as well as in early church mosaics. Exceptional Renaissance artists such as Tintoretto, Veronese, and Ghirlandaio all created versions of the Last Supper, but Leonardo da Vinci's large fresco “Last Supper,” is by far the most famous. Da Vinci began working on this masterpiece in 1498. It took him three years to complete. The painting is located in Milan, Italy.

## Spread of Christianity to A.D. 476

Geography Interactive  
For: Interactive map  
Web Code: nap-0541



Gradually, these disciples went to preach in Jewish communities throughout the Roman world. According to tradition, the apostle Peter established Christianity in the city of Rome itself. But **Paul**, a Jew from Asia Minor, played the most influential role in spreading Christianity.

**Paul Spreads Christianity** Paul had never met Jesus. In fact, he had been among those who persecuted Jesus' followers. But one day Paul had a vision of Jesus speaking to him. He immediately joined the Christians and decided to spread Jesus' teachings to gentiles, or non-Jews.

Until this time, Christianity had remained a sect within Judaism. The work of missionaries like Paul set Christianity on the road to becoming a world religion. A tireless traveler, Paul journeyed around the Mediterranean and set up churches in Asia Minor and Greece. In letters to the Christian communities, he explained difficult doctrines, judged disputes, and expanded Christian teachings, emphasizing that Jesus had sacrificed his life out of love for humankind. Paul asserted that those who believed Jesus was the son of God and complied with his teachings would achieve salvation, or eternal life. His letters became part of the New Testament.

**Christians Are Oppressed** Rome's tolerant attitude toward religion was not extended to Christianity. Roman officials found the Christians disloyal to Rome because they refused to honor the emperor with sacrifices or ask the traditional gods to protect the Roman state. When Christians met in secret to avoid persecution, rumors spread that they were engaged in evil practices.

**Map Skills** Aided by the work of Paul and other missionaries, Christianity gradually spread across the Roman empire.

- 1. Locate** (a) Jerusalem (b) Ephesus (c) Antioch (d) Constantinople (e) Alexandria
- 2. Movement** In what areas did Paul travel on his first journey?
- 3. Analyze Information** How did the extent of Christianity in A.D. 325 compare to that in A.D. 476? Was there a significant difference?

### Vocabulary Builder

complied—(kum PLYD) *vi.* obeyed or conformed to something

- **Quick Activity** Have students read Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians on page 172. Point out that today this letter is one of the most admired and most often quoted of Paul's writings. Discuss why the beliefs expressed in this letter might have appealed to the poor and oppressed. How does this letter reflect Greek ideals of moderation and discipline?

## Independent Practice

- **Web Code nap-0541** will take students to an interactive map. Have students complete the interactivity and then answer the questions in the text.
- Have students fill in the Outline Map *The Roman World* and label the boundary of the Roman Empire in A.D. 476.

**All in One Teaching Resources, Unit 1, p. 96**

## Monitor Progress

Circulate to make sure students are filling in their Outline Maps accurately. Administer the Geography Quiz.

**All in One Teaching Resources, Unit 1, p. 96**

## Differentiated

### Instruction Solutions for All Learners

#### L1 Special Needs L2 Less Proficient Readers

Instruct students to read aloud the selection **Jesus Teaches New Beliefs** on page 168. After listing the basic teachings of Jesus on the board, ask students why these Christian beliefs had so much appeal, particularly to the poor and oppressed, as the religion spread throughout the Middle East and Europe. Write their ideas on the board for class discussion.

#### L2 English Language Learners

Use the following resources to help students acquire basic skills.



#### Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide

- Adapted Note Taking Study Guide, p. 54
- Adapted Section Summary, p. 55

## Answers

### Map Skills


1. Review locations with students.
2. Asia Minor and Greece
3. Yes; Christianity had spread to a large part of southern and western Europe, Egypt, and Southwest Asia.



## The Early Christian Church Develops

13

### Instruct

- **Introduce: Key Terms** Have students find the key term **clergy** (in blue) in the text and define it. Using the Idea Wave strategy (TE, p. T22) ask students to propose reasons why they think the creation of a Christian clergy became necessary as the Church grew.
- **Teach Ask Why did Church leaders seek a hierarchy or structure for the Church?** (*to ensure uniformity in beliefs, practices, and rituals so that local priests or bishops did not act independently, and to provide an orderly way to make decisions and settle conflicts over doctrines or practices*) **What issue led to disagreement between the Church in the Latin-speaking west and the Greek-speaking east?** (*rivalry among patriarchs over whether greater power should be given to the bishop of Rome—who came to be called the pope—or should be divided among five patriarchs who shared spiritual authority equally*)
- **Quick Activity** Display **Color Transparency 29: Communion Chalice and Paten, 31: Roman Expansion, and 32: Spread of Christianity**. Use the lessons suggested in the transparency book to guide a discussion on the rise and spread of Christianity.  
 **Color Transparencies, 29, 31, 32**

### Independent Practice

**Link to Literature** Have students read the excerpt from *The City of God* by Augustine, Bishop of Hippo. Point out that in his book, Augustine defined the City of God as the community of those who loved God and would one day live with him.

**All in One** Teaching Resources, Unit 1, p. 94

### Monitor Progress

Check Reading and Note Taking Study Guide entries for student understanding.

### Answers

- ✓ The unity of the Roman empire, the Roman-protected Mediterranean as well as the Roman roads made it easy for missionaries to travel. Also, the Greek and Latin languages, which were common through the empire, assisted in spreading Christianity.

**BIOGRAPHY** His faith was more important to him than his life.

## BIOGRAPHY

### Peter

As the chief apostle, Peter (d. A.D. 64[?]) devoted his life to spreading the teachings of Jesus. He had been born with the name Simon, but according to the New Testament Jesus changed his name, saying, “Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.”

Peter became a missionary and is said to have later become the first bishop of both Antioch and Rome. However, his devotion to Jesus and Christianity cost him his life. Tradition tells of Peter’s persecution under the Roman emperor Nero. In one account, when Peter learns he is to be crucified, he insists on being turned upside down, saying he is not worthy of dying in the same way that Jesus had.

**What does Peter’s behavior indicate about his devotion to his faith?**



In times of trouble, persecution increased. Some Roman rulers, such as Nero, used Christians as scapegoats, blaming them for social or economic ills. Christians who were killed in times of persecution became known as **martyrs**, or people who suffer or die for their beliefs. According to tradition, both Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome during the reign of Nero.

**The Message Appeals to Many** Despite the attacks, Christianity continued to spread throughout the Roman world. Jesus had welcomed all people, especially the lowly, the poor, and the oppressed. These people found comfort in his message of love, as well as in his teachings of equality, dignity, and the promise of a better life beyond the grave.

As they did their work, Christian missionaries like Paul used ideas from Plato, the Stoics, and other Greek thinkers to explain Jesus’ message. A religion that incorporated the discipline and moderation of Greek philosophy appealed in particular to educated Romans. The unity of the Roman empire also eased the work of missionaries. Christians traveled along Roman roads and across the Mediterranean Sea, which was protected by Roman fleets. Early Christian documents were usually written in Greek or Latin, languages that many people across the empire understood.

Even persecution brought new converts. Observing the willingness of Christians to die for their religion, people were impressed by the strength of Christians’ belief. “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the [Christian] Church,” noted one Roman.

**Rome Embraces Christianity** The persecution of Christians finally ended in A.D. 313, when the emperor **Constantine** issued the Edict of Milan. It granted freedom of worship to all citizens of the Roman empire. By the end of the century, the emperor Theodosius (three uh DOH shus) had made Christianity the official religion of the Roman empire and repressed the practice of other faiths. The church grew in power and developed its own bureaucracy alongside that of the empire.

✓ **Checkpoint** What factors enabled Christianity to spread throughout the Roman empire?

## The Early Christian Church Develops

Early Christian communities shared a common faith in the teachings of Jesus and a common way of worship. Only gradually, however, did these scattered communities come together as a structured Church.

**Joining the Church** To join the Christian community, a person had to be baptized, or blessed with holy water. Christians believed that through the rite of baptism their sins were forgiven by the grace of God. Members of the community were considered equals, and they addressed each other as “brother” or “sister.” Each Sunday, Christians gathered for a ceremony of thanksgiving to God. The baptized ate bread and drank wine in a sacred rite called the Eucharist. They did this in memory of Jesus, whose last supper was described in the Gospels.

Many women welcomed Christianity’s promise that in the Church “there is neither Jew nor Greek . . . neither slave nor free . . . neither male nor female.” In early Christian communities, women served as

### Connect to Our World

**Rome and the Church Today** The home of one of the world’s most powerful religious bodies is located in the world’s smallest state. The spiritual and administrative capital of Roman Catholicism is located in Vatican City. It is the home of the Holy See, the worldwide administrative and lawmaking body for the Roman Catholic Church. With an area of .44 sq. km

(109 acres) and a population of fewer than 1,000 residents, Vatican City is the smallest independent state in the world. It is surrounded by the city of Rome. The Pope is both the spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church and the head of state for Vatican City. He holds legislative, executive, and judicial power over both the Holy See and Vatican City.

teachers and administrators. Later, women were barred from any official role in the Church. Like men, however, they continued to work as missionaries sent out by the Church to convert people to Christianity both within the Roman empire and beyond.

**Structuring the Clergy** Only men were eligible to become members of the Christian **clergy**, or the group of people who conduct Christian services. Each Christian community and its clergy were grouped together as a diocese. Every diocese had its own priest. Over the priest presided a **bishop**, a high Church official responsible for everyone in his diocese. Bishops traced their spiritual authority to the apostles, and through the apostles, to Jesus himself. In the early Christian Church, all bishops were considered equal successors of the apostles.

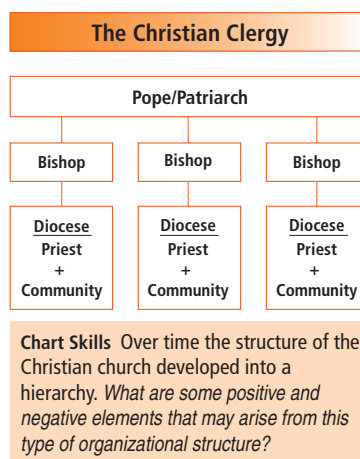
Gradually, the bishops of the most important cities in the Roman empire—Rome, Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and Constantinople—gained greater authority. These bishops took on the honorary title of **patriarch** and exercised authority over other bishops in their area. The Christian Church thus developed into a hierarchy, or organization in which officials are arranged according to rank.

**Differences Arise Within the Church** As the rituals and structure of the Church became more defined, rivalry among the patriarchs developed. In the Latin-speaking west, bishops of Rome, who came to be called **popes**, began to claim authority over all other bishops. In the Greek-speaking east, where the other four patriarchs lived, the patriarchs felt that the five should share spiritual authority as equals.

The emergence of **heresies**, or beliefs said to be contrary to official Church teachings, also caused division. To end disputes over questions of faith, councils of Church leaders met to decide official Christian teachings.

**Scholars Further Define Christianity** Early Christians produced an abundance of works defining Christian theology. The word *theology* is Greek and means “talk or discourse about God.” Two leading scholars of the early Church were Clement and Origen. Both worked as teachers in Egypt, in Alexandria, a major center of learning in the Roman world. Perhaps the greatest of the early Church scholars was **Augustine**, bishop of Hippo in North Africa. He combined Christian doctrine with Greco-Roman learning, especially the philosophy of Plato.

**Checkpoint** How was the early Christian clergy organized?



## Assess and Reteach

### Assess Progress

L3

- Have students complete the Section Assessment.
- Administer the Section Quiz.

**Teaching Resources, Unit 1, p. 86**

- To further assess student understanding, use **Progress Monitoring Transparencies, 22**

### Reteach

If students need more instruction, have them read the section summary.

- Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 55** L3
- Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 55** L1 L2
- Spanish Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 55** L2

### Extend

L4

Have students explain the following quote “The blood of the martyr is the seed of the [Christian] Church.”

### Answers

**Chart Skills** positive elements: a more comprehensive structure to the clergy, a ranking of spiritual authority; negative elements: an authoritarian church, a distancing of the Christian community from the clergy

- At the local level, each Christian community had its own priest. Over each priest was a bishop responsible for all Christians within an area called a diocese. In time, the bishops of the most important cities in the Roman empire gained greater authority over all other bishops in their area and assumed the honorary title of patriarchs.

### Writing About History

The outline should include key points of comparison between the experiences of Jews and Christians in the Roman empire.

For additional assessment, have students access **Progress Monitoring Online** at **Web Code naa-0541**.

## Section 4 Assessment

#### Terms, People, and Places

1. What do each of the key people listed at the beginning of the section have in common? Explain.

#### Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Understand Effects**  
Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Question: How did Christianity emerge and then spread to become the official religion of the Roman empire?

#### Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Identify Central Issues** Why were many Jews unhappy under Roman rule even though the Romans were tolerant of their religion?
4. **Synthesize Information** What were three basic teachings of Jesus?
5. **Summarize** What practices and organizational structures helped establish the early Christian Church?

#### Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice  
Web Code: naa-0541

#### Writing About History

**Quick Write: Make an Outline** To prepare for an essay comparing the experiences of Jews and of Christians in the Roman empire, make an outline identifying key points of comparison. Include details under each key point.

### Section 4 Assessment

1. They all are associated with Christianity and the spread of the faith.
2. It emerged from a sect within Judaism based on the teachings of Jesus. Followers helped make it a major religion. It was declared the official religion of the Roman empire by the emperor Theodosius.
3. Many Jews were concerned that Hellenistic influences were weakening their reli-

- gion. They wanted strict obedience to Jewish laws and traditions. The Zealots wanted an independent Jewish state.
4. Jesus believed that anyone who believed in his teachings would obtain eternal life. He emphasized God’s love and taught the need for justice, morality, service to others, and forgiveness.
5. practices: baptism, Eucharist; structures: a hierarchy of church officials that included priests, bishops, and patriarchs



## First Letter to the Corinthians

### Objectives

- Understand how Paul helped spread Christianity through his correspondence with Christian communities.
- Describe Paul's views on the importance of love in Christian theology.

### Build Background Knowledge

Ask students to recall what they know about Paul and his efforts to expand Christianity. Remind students that corresponding with newly formed Christian communities all over the empire was a key part of his missionary work.

### Instruct

- Discuss with students Paul's purpose in writing to the Corinthians. Make sure students understand that the Corinthians were new converts to a relatively new religion. Ask **Why might Paul feel that Christian communities like the Corinthians needed mentoring?** (*beliefs of the new faith and of the rituals associated with this religion were still being created and clarified and the religion was still spreading and changing*)

### Monitor Progress

Have students write a two- or three-sentence summary of Paul's message to the Corinthians.

### Thinking Critically

1. The repetition emphasizes and reinforces Paul's main point that love is an all-important quality for a Christian.
2. A truly loving person remains steadfast in this behavior regardless of the suffering, misfortunes or problems he or she may encounter.



Paul writing one of his epistles, or letters

## First Letter to the Corinthians

Around A.D. 51, Paul founded a Christian community in the thriving commercial city of Corinth. After his departure, he wrote two letters to the newly converted Christians to encourage and guide them in their faith. In this excerpt from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul declares that, for a Christian, love is more important than any other quality.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic<sup>1</sup> powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have no love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

### Thinking Critically

1. **Analyze Literature** Paul uses repetition of words and phrases throughout this letter. What purpose does this serve?
2. **Draw Conclusions** What does Paul mean when he says that love "endures all things"?

1. **prophetic** (pruh FET ik) *adj.* able to predict events

### History Background

**Paul's Letters to the Corinthians** Paul wrote two letters, or epistles, to the Christian community he founded at Corinth in Greece. This passage is part of a longer letter that Paul sent to the Corinthians to discuss problems within the community that arose after Paul's first missionary visit to Corinth. At that time there were conflicts among the converts who fol-

lowed the teachings of various apostles. Paul uses this letter to answer questions the Corinthian Christians have asked him about such issues as marriage and celibacy, the conduct of women, and the Eucharist service. Paul later wrote another letter to the Corinthians, known as Corinthians II. Paul's writings are found in the New Testament.