

Contents

<i>List of abbreviations</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
<i>Map showing the spread of Christianity over the antique world</i>	xiv–xv
Introduction	1
<i>The Great Turn</i>	1
<i>The chronological frame</i>	2
<i>Contextualisation</i>	3
<i>The agents of contextualisation</i>	8
1 Earlier contextualisation	11
<i>The Christians and the Roman Empire and society</i>	11
<i>Ethical standards and group morality</i>	16
<i>Connecting with philosophical themes</i>	19
<i>Responding to religious feelings and needs</i>	22
2 Crisis and recognition	26
<i>Introduction</i>	26
<i>The reform by the last pagan emperors and its failure</i>	27
<i>Politics and religion in Constantine</i>	34
<i>The Christianisation of public life</i>	41
3 The Church Fathers assess the change	45
<i>Introduction: three voices</i>	45
<i>Lactantius</i>	48
<i>Eusebius of Caesarea</i>	52
<i>Athanasius of Alexandria</i>	63
<i>Conclusions</i>	67

4	Defining Christ's relation to God	69
	<i>Introduction: two tracks of investigation</i>	69
	<i>The critical theological situation in the east and its causes</i>	71
	<i>The Council of Nicaea and its aftermath (324–40)</i>	79
	<i>Development of Christological reflection (341–53)</i>	86
	<i>Breakdown and resurgence of the Nicene Party (353–63)</i>	96
	<i>Retrospective view on the period 342–63: evidences of contextualisation</i>	106
5	Christianity matures	114
	<i>Introduction to the last decades and the emperors (364–97)</i>	114
	<i>The final phase of the Arian struggle; external events (364–82)</i>	117
	<i>The final phase of the Arian struggle; doctrinal results</i>	123
	<i>The reception of the Creed of Nicaea-Constantinople; its ecumenical status</i>	138
	<i>New trends in the relationship between the Church and the Emperor</i>	142
6	External and internal repercussions	152
	<i>Introduction: repercussions of the Imperial and Romanised Church</i>	152
	<i>Christianity beyond the Roman borders</i>	152
	<i>The prime of ascetic and monastic life</i>	159
	<i>Liturgical life and Christian commitment</i>	165
	<i>Epilogue</i>	179
	<i>Notes</i>	184
	<i>Selected bibliography</i>	214
	<i>Index of notions, persons and places</i>	217
	<i>Index of patristic references</i>	225