

Image & Likeness: St. John of Damascus on the Holy Icons

Glossary of Terminology:

1. **Icons** (Greek for “images”) refers to the religious images of Byzantium, made from a variety of media, which depict holy figures and events. This included icons (as we know them), mosaics, frescoes, crosses, decorated vessels, garments, books with depictions, statuary, etc.
2. **Iconoclasm** refers to any destruction of images, including the Byzantine Iconoclastic Controversy of the eighth and ninth centuries, although the Byzantines themselves did not use this term.
3. **Iconomachy** (Greek for “image struggle”) was the term the Byzantines used to describe the Iconoclastic Controversy.
4. **Iconoclasts** (Greek for “breakers of images”) refers to those who opposed icons.
5. **Iconophiles** or **Iconoduls** (Greek for “lovers of images”), also known as “iconodules” (Greek for “servants of images”), refers to those who supported the use of religious images.
6. **Florilegia** (Lat., florilegium, an anthology) are systematic collections of excerpts (more or less copious) from the works of the Fathers and other ecclesiastical writers of the early period, compiled with a view to serve dogmatic or ethical purposes. These encyclopedic compilations — Patristic anthologies as they may be fitly styled — are a characteristic product of the later Byzantine theological school, and form a very considerable branch of the extensive literature of the Greek Catenæ. Two classes of Christian florilegia may here be distinguished: the dogmatic and the ascetical, or ethical. The dogmatic florilegia are collections of Patristic citations designed to exhibit the continuous and connected teaching of the Fathers on some specific doctrine. The ascetical florilegia are collections of moral sentences and excerpts drawn partly from the Scriptures and partly from the Fathers, on such topics as virtues and vices, duties and exercises of a religious life, faith, discipline, etc.
7. **Latria**: A species of proskonyse: The exclusive of worship properly ascribed to God.
8. **Proskonyse**: The action of bowing down to the ground
9. **Time** and **dulia**: A species of proskonyse: The respect/honor applied to icons and sacred objects in their relation to God.