

SAINTLY NAMING THE ROLE OF CHRISTIAN SAINTS IN LATE ANTIQUE NAMING PRACTICES IN ASIA MINOR

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<https://doi.org/10.47433/tv.xcixn9-12.181>

Abstract

This article discusses the impact of saints on naming practices during the Late Antique period (3rd to 7th centuries). The veneration of saints played a pivotal role in shaping names given to individuals in Christian communities. Naming children after saints and biblical figures became popular, reflecting the belief that these names carried saints' sanctity.

Keywords: Late Antiquity, naming practices, Baptism, Saints

1. Introduction

In late antiquity, naming played an important role in Christian culture and spirituality. The naming practices of this period were influenced by Christian saints, who played a decisive role in shaping the names of individuals. Naming practices in late antique Christianity illustrate the cultural and religious significance of the saints of this period.

2.1 The Influence of Saints

An important aspect of the changes Christianity brought in antiquity was the growing veneration of the saints and their role in piety. The saints had an influence that went beyond practices, particularly in the naming of new members of the faith. During this time, it became increasingly popular for parents to name their children after saints and ask for their intercession and guidance throughout their lives.