

Constantine

Constantine (KAHN st&n teen) united the Roman Empire under one ruler. Before this time, it had been divided. When he became emperor, he made many changes. He wanted people to believe the government would be kind to them. He made a new coin called "solidus" which means solid. This coin was used in the empire for 700 years.

He wanted people to feel safe, and he wanted them to be treated right.

He studied the mistakes of others, and tried not to make the same mistakes.

The ruler made many changes. He said slaves should be treated well, and their families should not be separated. He made Sunday a day of rest.

He was impressed by the Christians' strong faith. He saw they were well organized and loyal. He knew he needed their help. To gain their support, he gave them religious freedom; the freedom to worship as they pleased. He banned crucifixion.

He himself became a Christian right before he died.

Constantine believed he had been chosen by God to rule. The capital was named after him. He called it Constantinople (KAHN stan t& NO pl).

He enjoyed the support of the people. Even though he talked about peace, within his own family there was strife. It is said he even had some members of his family killed.

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