

2. Early Christianity was illegal, therefore the corporate ownership of real estate was impossible. Believers met in homes and large rented rooms.
3. The Romans had an equal hate for early Christians
4. Early churches (groups of believers) met in house churches (Gal 1:22; Rom 1:16, 16:5). The word was used as early as the 2nd century in the preamble of the Martyrdom of Polycarp (Halton 207)
4. The conversion of Constantine brought about a building boom of churches during his reign (306-37), that continued through to the early 8th century. This produced some 200+ churches in the Holy Land, with many at holy sites.

Temples:

1. The pagan temple was generally not a place of worship or study, but where the pagan gods lived. If sacrifices were made, they would have been monetary, animal or human. The gods had to be pleased for life to be fruitful.
Note: YHWH lived in the first temple and never returned.
2. Pagan temples were frequently centers of banking as well as ritual meals with temple prostitutes.
3. While the Romans copied the temple design of the Greeks, their primary design was "to shape the space around the ritual" (Brown 9).
4. Temples were usually located in the heart of a city and/or on its acropolis.

Domestic Structures:

Villas and Palaces:

1. Built by the wealthy aristocrats, ruins of these homes have been everywhere in the ANE. Massive masonry buildings, sometimes with a heating system, limited sewer and water.
2. Contained dozens of rooms, including servants quarters. Frequently it was fortified and self-contained.