Division of the Roman Empire at the time of Constantine

Before the last Roman Emperor Constantine died he created a second centre of power in Eastern Europe, which he called Constantinople before the Roman Empire began to fall.

This second center of power now modern day Istanbul (Turkey) over time began to gain strength and wealth. After constant barbarian invasions from the north eventually toppled Rome, the city of Constantinople was the only center of Roman power in eastern or western Europe.

By the middle of the 4th century, Constantinople began the capital in this eastern location. The lose of Rome as the center of power also affected the church profoundly and as a result the center of the church and the papacy moved to eastern Europe. The alliance of state and church was later referred to as the Byzantine Empire.
Early Christian Art  Name:

Christian religion was not legal for many years throughout the Roman Empire. As such, early Christian art was produced largely (and literally) underground.

The Good Sheppard. Catacomb Painting, Rome, early 4th century

Early Christians dug catacombs, or underground passageways outside of the city to bury their dead and hold occasional religious services. In time, these catacombs grew to be massive underground networks of tunnels, which were lighted and ventilated by air shafts.

Early Christian art in these catacombs differed from the art of Rome in many ways. Early Christian artists showed little interest in the grace and power of the human body, which was so important to Greek and Roman artists. Christian Art was intended to illustrate the glory and power of Christ.

Use of Line, Value, Proportion & Detail: