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In the article were viewed sociocultural grounds of the early Christianity through the prism of the concept of Arnold Joseph Toynbee “Challenge-and-response”. During viewing of the problem we used primary sources both of early Christianity and ancient world. Ancient society didn't accept Christianity which as basics held incomprehensible for ancient man values and ideals, which brought to actualization of the conflict “friend or foe”. For the pagan society Christian doctrine is not just foe, but a brand-new - unacceptable foe. Christians are behind the line of oecumene of ancient world view. Foe for Christianity religion of the Rome don't accept the postulates about one God and equality of everyone in front of him, and Christians dislike “rotten” hedonistic society of the late ancient world.

Christianity have received a “Challenge” and have answered to it. Also at that time Rome have received a “Challenge”. Rome were losing its dominant values.

The old republican valor are vanishing in the past; in the days of empire a vital role plays success and benefits. The fall of morals - is the true “Challenge” of Roman history, Rome falls into decline. Contradictions in Roman society and protest against the collapse have served fertile ground for the growing Christianity. The “Challenge” has created a new civilization, a new world, it have brought together the Western world. It was strong enough for this purpose and at the same time weak enough to not to crush the Christian culture. Rome was defeated by defeated party.

Keywords: Toynbee, “Challenge-and-response”, desk myth, ancient world, early Christianity, sacrifice, “friend or foe”.

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