

ON APOSTASY

The first millennium in the life of Christian Church was spend mostly in clearing the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ through the Orthodox faith by clearing it from all heretical interference, heretical teaching. The history of Ecumenical and other councils point out, that the most important part of their work was **THE TRUTH** about our Orthodox faith. All those councils showed, that **QUALITY and NOT QUANTITY was the importance.**

One of the consequence in heretical teaching was pointed out in various form is - that loosing the truth in teaching, this indifference in teaching, - will shake the foundation of the Church. That spiritual earthquake was the apostasy, which is retreat from true teaching, direct consequence of which is ecumenism.

One of the famous hierarch of our church was, Blessed memory Archbishop Averky, who is regarded as father of the Church nowadays, he underline this very clearly many times.

We are not powerful or strong enough to restrain apostasy, as holy Bishop Ignaty (Bryanchaninov) points out: “Do not attempt to stop it with your frail hand...”

What should we do then?

“Stay away, guard your own self against it, and that will be enough for you. Get to know the spirit of times, study it , in order to escape its influence as much as possible” – this is what the same holy Bishop advice us to do.

And do not his words, written over one hundred years ago and so obviously referring to our times, breath with a prophetic inspiration and an indubitable enlightenment from above: “Judging from the spirit of the times and from the wandering of mind, we must assume that the edifice of the Church, which has been shaken for quite a while, has now rocked quickly and violently. There is no one to stop it or opposed it. The measures of support which are undertaken, are all borrowed from the elements of a world that is hostile to the Church, and will more likely quicken its fall then prevent it. May the merciful Lord cover the remainder of His faithful. But the remainder is quite scarce and is becoming scarcer and scarcer”.

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So it seems that we have now reached this “quick and violent rocking of the edifice of the Church”! The enemy of the Church uses all possible means and methods to overthrow this edifice, in his efforts enjoying the support of open and hidden renegades from the true faith and Church, including even reigning hierarchs of some of the Churches.

We are truly living in terrible times; there have never been such times in the history of Christianity, in the history of mankind? A time of nearly universal vacillation!

And if we desire to stay true to Orthodoxy, this obligates us so much.

We must, as St. Ignaty instruct us, stay away and guard ourselves against the apostasy, which is moving along in the world with gigantic steps: we must guard ourselves against the corrupt spirit of the times, in order to escape its influence.

And in order to achieve this we must, first of all understand and firmly remember that nowadays not everything is truly Orthodox which bears this most holy and most precious name, that nowadays there is also FALSE Orthodoxy, which we must fear like the plague.

The true Orthodoxy is only that which does not accept or allow anywhere – be it in teaching or in church practice – any modernism contrary to the word of God and the rules of the Ecumenical Councils.

The true Orthodoxy neither approves of, nor encourages contemporary mores – the customs and fashions of the modern debased world, which lies in greater iniquity than in the times of the apostles, a totally godless world.

The true Orthodoxy thinks only of pleasing God and saving souls, and not of temporal earthly well-being, careers, material goods or acquisitions.

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The true Orthodoxy is spiritual, not earthly, and not attached to this world, to worldly experience and emotion.

As a direct consequence the apostasy produced the ecumenistic heresy, which fifty years ago was little known, but now it covered most of the world, from which God save us all. Amen.