

TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE UNIFIED !

by

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In reality, there is no question of union of the Christians. *True* (emphasis supplied) Christians were, are, and always will be united. They were, are, and will be one flock with one Shepherd.... The Church is one. People are many, and *few* (emphasis supplied) of them are her children. [Alexandre Kalomiros¹]

We're always reading about the 'fact' that Christians are disunited; so, we must take steps to come together. The 'fact' of our disunity is taken from the external manifestations of this world, the bailiwick of the Prince of Darkness, the Evil One. Satan convinces us that we should take steps to unite and be one.

Well, if we *are* Christians, true ones, Orthodox followers of our Lord, we're *already* united! The disunited are so because they either have never followed the Royal Path, have chosen to leave it or refused to follow it.

In the United States, we are blessed with living in the freest country in the world. Millions risk tragedy, including death, to get here. This *is* the land of opportunity. Such freedom is wonderful, but the other side of it lies in its spiritual destabilisation. Too often, secular liberty, our extreme freedom call it, carries with itself the seeds of the destruction of the soul. America has been the world's beckoning tower, the spiritual inspiration to worship without persecution since and during its secular existence. But freedom carried to its extremity may bring spiritual, as well as, actual anarchy.

In the not too distant past, Christian ideals and social mores spiritually dominated our development. As each decade passes, particularly during the last several, this has become less and less true. We are encouraged to be 'tolerant' to the politically correct point of accepting all religions as *relatively* equal. The secular 'one-worlders' push the idea that no one religion can possess all the truth. It would be 'illogical' to think so. City newspapers sport 'religious spiritual values' sections that concentrate on paganism and list their 'holy days' along side Christianity. One can see the great heresy of ecumenism here. People led down this heretical path are taught to analyse, evaluate and determine all matters logically, analytically, systematically, without reference to the Faith. The Faith, you see, is not 'in' with *this* world!

Choose His Freedom and Come to Him!

All we need to remember is that Christ in His Divinity came to us, took flesh, ministered to and shepherded the Apostles, proclaimed His Way to all. He was persecuted, crucified, rose from the dead and ascended to Heaven. Christ has been revealed and reveals Himself to us. There is nothing

to analyse or debate. You either believe it or not! The Lord does not force or use any kind of compulsion to bring us to Him. He gave us freedom to choose Him. He is ours to accept, or reject. Everything has been revealed. True Christians do not base their faith in Christ on the mother heresy, rationalism, which bore ecumenism. God does not secularly prove Himself to us as if He is competing in our modern markets for 'customers'. Indeed, so-called churches which use such marketplace 'twaddle' as a tool to expand their numbers (and thus their wealth) are Satan's, perhaps unwitting, companions.

Christ came to save His *own*, not all of this world:

God does not ask the Christian to save the world. Any attempt on the part of Christians to change the course the world has taken would be futile and ridiculous. The world is a sinking ship, and it is sinking because its very structure is rotten. God does not ask the Christian to save the ship, but to save as many of the shipwrecked as he can.

The new Ark of Noe, the Church of Christ, sails near the site of the shipwreck. Any who wish to be saved from the waters *must* (emphasis supplied) seek refuge in her. But in order to find refuge they must forsake the world, not so much geographically as essentially. 'Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not any unclean thing, and I will receive you' (II Cor. 6:17).²

If we don't come to Him, why would we think He will save us? The road is narrow and few will get through, these could be as few as a handful.

Even if Christians faithful to tradition are reduced to a handful, they are the ones who are the *true* (emphasis supplied) Church of Jesus Christ.

[St. Athanasius the Great]

Lifelong Struggle and Good Works, Not Just Words Are Necessary

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me (St. John 14:6)". Christ doesn't say "a" way, truth, life. He is crystal clear: He is the *only* road to salvation. It isn't enough just to say and believe we're Christians:

Something else is necessary: the lifelong struggle of the Christian, and that is purity of heart, which renders man worthy to receive the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

[Alexandre Kalomiros³]

Faith is insufficient by itself, good works must flow from our faith:

"*Faith without works is dead* (St. James 2: 26), and the works of faith are love, peace, long-suffering, mercy, humility, rest from all works (as God rested Himself from His works), bearing the Cross and life in the Spirit. Only such faith can be considered true. True faith *cannot* (emphasis supplied) be without works; one who truly believes will unfailingly have works as well."

[St. Seraphim of Sarov]

Brethren,

Take up the Cross! Be at peace with your neighbours. Love them as God loves us. See in them the image of the Lord. Follow up by showing mercy to all. Understand that you will suffer and struggle along His Way for Him. Steadfastly and with good spirit accept spiritual burdens because it is critical for your soul. Pray for all, never cease struggling and throw yourselves on Christ's mercy. And remember:

There is one road to knowledge, the one which God has marked through the centuries. It is not a way of syllogisms but a way of life, because truth is not a system of philosophical theories but a personal existence: 'I am *the Way, the Truth, the Life*' (all emphases supplied).

[Alexandre Kalomiros⁴]

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

¹ *AGAINST FALSE UNION*, translated from the Greek by George Gabriel, Prologue by Photios Kontoglou, St. Nectarios Press, Seattle, Washington, (Second Edition) (Revised Appendix), 2000, p. 77.

² *ibid.*, pp. 25-26.

³ *id.*, p. 41.

⁴ *id.*, p. 40.