

## **ASCETICALLY SPEAKING, pp. 41-42**

41

soldier in a line of battle, and do not feel any ambition to appear alone in the lists, or to undertake a battle single-handed as a Knight errant or fabulous Hercules.

### **ORAL AND WRITTEN TRADITION ARE SPIRITUAL EQUALS**

St. Basil the Great

Some things we have from written teaching, others we have received from the Apostolic Tradition handed down to us in a mystery; and both these things have the same force for piety.

### **ICONOGRAPHERS TREAD IN THEIR PREDECESSORS' FOOTSTEPS**

Dr. Alexandre Kalomiros

To paint the icon of a saint, one must have tasted of sanctity; one must have lived the experience of the Grace of God. One must have received the Divine Light, as far as this is possible to the soul. The painter who does not possess all this must be very careful, for every brush stroke can lead him to heresy. There is only one path left to him: He must walk faithfully in the footsteps of the ancient iconographers, and paint strictly as they did. This is how he can keep himself from all error, and thus give his works the seal of eternity. And spiritually he will be profited, for by adhering to the types left by our Fathers, he also will taste of eternity and participate in the experience of the holy iconographers of the past, that is, the life of the Church.

### **MAN HAS REPLACED GOD IN BOTH PAPISM AND PROTESTANTISM**

St. Justin (Popovich)

Both in Papism and in Protestantism, man has been put in the place of the God-Man, both as the highest value and as the highest criterion. A painful and sad correction of the God-Man's work and teaching has been accomplished. Steadily and stubbornly Papism has tried to substitute the God-Man with man, until in the

dogma about the infallibility of the pope - a man, the God-Man was once and for all replaced with ephemeral, infallible man; because with this dogma, the pope was decisively and clearly declared as something higher than not only man, but the holy Apostles, the holy Fathers, and the holy Ecumenical Councils. With this kind of a departure from the God-Man, from the ecumenical Church as the God-Man organism, Papism surpassed Luther, the founder of Protestantism. Thus, the first radical protest in the name of humanism against the God-Man Christ and His God-Man organism - the Church - should be looked for in Papism, not in Lutheranism. Papism is actually the first and oldest Protestantism.... And the Protestants merely accepted this dogma in its essence, and worked it out in terrifying magnitude and detail. Essentially, Protestantism is nothing other than generally applied Papism. For in Protestantism, the fundamental principle of Papism is brought to life by each man individually. After the example of the infallible man in Rome, each Protestant is a cloned infallible man, because he pretends to personal infallibility in matters of faith.

42

It can be said: Protestantism is a vulgarised Papism, only stripped of mystery (i.e., sacramentality), authority and power.

HERETICS - ABANDON YOUR HERESIES, REPENT AND THEN THE MOTHER CHURCH WILL LOVINGLY RECEIVE YOU!

George Karras, Orthodox Heritage

A true union with the Latins, or the Protestants (or any other non-Orthodox group) would be a blessing for humanity (and Orthodoxy) and for the Glory of our Trinitarian God **only if** we do not compromise our 2,000-year old theology, dogmas, teachings of the Holy Fathers and Holy Traditions. For the first 1,000 years, we all shared the same religion. If we do not share it today, it is because *they* abandoned the True Church. For the Orthodox to commit the errors of the 1054 A.D. Latins would be a greater travesty than the one committed by them. Should any group wish to reunify with the Orthodox, all they have to do is abandon the heresies and return to the Mother Church. She has been awaiting their return with open arms for 1,000 years. This must be the one and only criterion for *any* union with *any* non-Orthodox grouping. To do anything else is to betray our ancestors whose blood has spilled as great rivers, in many parts of the world, to defend this Faith that some *Orthodox representatives* wish to now give away.

## OUR LORD CAME FOR THE HUMBLE

St. Clement to the Corinthians

For Christ is of those who are humble-minded, and not of those who exalt themselves over His flock. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Sceptre of the majesty of God, did not come in the pomp of pride or arrogance, although He might have done so, but in a lowly condition, as the Holy Spirit had declared regarding Him.

## HE CAME FOR THE SINNER

St. Justin the Martyr

For Christ called not the just nor the chaste to repentance, but the ungodly, and the licentious and the unjust; His words being, *I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*. For the heavenly Father desires rather the repentance than the punishment of the sinner. And of the love to all, He taught thus: *If ye love them that love you, what new thing do ye? For even fornicators do this. But I say unto you, Pray for your enemies, and love them that hate you, and bless them that curse you, and pray for them that despitefully use you.*