

# Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy

## PART ONE

# HETERODOXY AND HERESY

### I. Introduction

- A. The Truth Business
- B. The Goal of Religion
- C. The Nature of Truth
- D. Some Technical Terms
- E. How the Orthodox Church Views the Non-Orthodox

### II. Essentials of Orthodox Christian Doctrine

- A. The Holy Trinity
- B. Jesus Christ
- C. Salvation and the Church

### III. Major Historical Heresies

- A. First and Second Centuries
- B. Third Century
- C. Fourth Century
- D. Fifth Century
- E. Sixth Century
- F. Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Centuries
- G. Fourteenth through Nineteenth Centuries

# Appendix I: Orthodoxy Quick Reference

## 1. The Holy Trinity

- One God
- God is uncreated, existing before all created things.
- God is three Persons, one in Essence.
- All three Persons are absolutely equal.
- All attributes of God are either unique to each Person (e.g., Fatherhood) or common to all three (e.g., perfection).
- The Father is the eternal Source of the Godhead. The Son is begotten of the Father, while the Spirit proceeds from the Father.
- God is unknowable essence and knowable energies.

## 2. Jesus Christ

- Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity.
- He is fully divine and of one essence with the Father.
- He is fully human and of one essence with mankind.
- He is one Person in two natures.
- He truly was born, lived, died and bodily rose from the dead.
- He is the Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures.

## 3. The Church

- There is only one Church, the Orthodox Church.
- The Church is the Body of Christ. He is a member and its only Head.
- Salvation is in and through the Church.
- Salvation is *theosis* (“deification,” “divinization”), becoming more like God in union with Him.
- Salvation is not merely a change in status, but in actual being.
- Salvation is by God’s power but only with man’s active cooperation, termed *synergy*.
- The sacraments really communicate grace by means of their administration from the episcopacy, who are successors to the Apostles.
- Christ will return again, and that will be the end of time. At that time, all the dead will rise, the righteous to a resurrection of life and the wicked to a resurrection of death.

## Appendix II: Heresy Quick Reference

1. **Docetism** – Jesus was God, but only “appeared” to be human.
2. **Judaizing** – Christians should become Jews first or more Jewish.
3. **Gnosticism** – “Knowledge” saves and may be available only to a select few. Highly dualistic.
4. **Marcionism** – Rejection of Hebrew “god” in favor of New Testament “god.”
5. **Montanism** – Ecstatic spiritual experiences sought out, new revelation through “prophet” Montanus.
6. **Manichaeism** – Persian Gnostic religion, highly dualistic.
7. **Sabellianism** – Father, Son and Holy Spirit are only “modes” or “masks” of one divine Person.
8. **Novatianism** – People who apostasize or commit serious sin can never be absolved.
9. **Donatism** – Personal moral unworthiness invalidates the sacraments of clergy (even if repentant).
10. **Arianism** – Christ is not God, but only the highest created being.
11. **Chiliasm** – Christ will reign for a literal 1,000 years after the Second Coming.
12. **Apollinarianism** – Christ did not have a human soul, but the Logos fulfilled that role.
13. **Pneumatomachianism** – The Holy Spirit is not divine, but is a creature.
14. **Pelagianism** – Man can save himself without divine grace.
15. **Nestorianism** – Jesus Christ is two persons “conjoined.”
16. **Monophysitism** – Jesus Christ has one, hybrid nature, half-God and half-man.
17. **Apokatastasis** – All will be saved, even if they reject God.
18. **Origenism** – A set of Platonized cosmological teachings and speculations.
19. **Monothelism** – Jesus had only one will, the divine.
20. **Monoenergism** – Jesus had only one energy, the divine.
21. **Iconoclasm** – Icons should be removed from churches and destroyed.
22. **Filioquism** – The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father *and the Son*.
23. **Barlaamism** – Rejection of hesychasm, assertion that highest knowledge is mental/philosophical.
24. **Ethnophyletism** – Church governance should be based on ethnic divisions, rather than geographic.