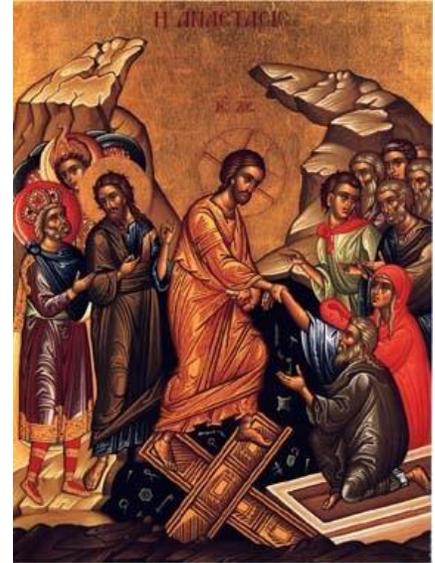


Seven Points to Divine Life

The Orthodox Christian Faith
in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

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GOD'S PLAN:

1. God created & brought us into existence (Gen 1:26) because He is love (1 Jn 4:8) and wants to share His love & Divine Life with us. His plan for us was to know and love Him, to be in communion and partake of His Divine Life in order to become God-like for everlasting life.

OUR PROBLEM:

2. But man turned away from God's plan, wanting to be "God-like" without God (Gen 3). Man misused his free-will by rejecting God's will. Sin is ultimately a rejection of God's love and Divine Life. Through sin, mankind partook of death (Rom 5:12) and, as a result we all now sin and die. Our communion with God (our participation in His Divine Life) has been broken, therefore we all go against God's will (Rom 3:23). Mankind is caught by sin and death and we are unable to save ourselves (Ps 48:7-9 LXX).

GOD'S SOLUTION:

3. God the Father sent His Divine Word and Only-begotten Son into this world to become man and heal our broken humanity (Heb 2:14-15). Jesus partook of our humanity so that we could partake of His Divinity. He restored our broken communion with God the Father and gave everyone again the opportunity to know Him and to partake of His Divine life (Jn 3:16).

OUR DECISION:

4. Now we all have to decide for ourselves if we want to partake of His Divine life. Since true love is freely chosen, God will not force His love on us. We must turn to Him. If we want God's life in us, participation in the life of God begins with repentance (Mt 3:2, 7-10). We begin by acknowledging and taking responsibility for the things we have done wrong in our lives. We ask God's forgiveness and His power to help us turn away from sin and wrong doing (1 Jn 1:5-10). We can begin in our hearts but we should also confess our sins before one of His priests whom God has established as His ministers of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:18; Jn 20:21-23).

THE WAY:

5. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but through Him (Jn 14:6). To become one with Jesus Christ through faith, is also to become one with His body the Church (Col 1:24). The way to enter into the Church and participate in God's Divine Life is by (1) faith in the All-Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and (2) reception of Holy Baptism (Mt 28:18-20 & Mk 16:15-16).

THE TRUTH:

6. Once we have repented, become Baptized and receive God's Holy Spirit (Jn 3:3-5): We are cleansed of our sins, we are enlightened with God's truth, we are made members of His Body the Church and we begin our participation in God's Divine Life (known as *Theosis*) by partaking of the Divine nature (2 Pt 1:4).

THE LIFE:

7. We spend the rest of our lives, together with His Church, partaking of God's Divine Life & Energy (Grace) through the reception of His Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), Divine Worship (Liturgy) and especially through Holy Communion which gives us Christ Himself (Jn 6). Because God's truth is liberating, we dedicate our lives to learning and living His will -especially through study of the Holy Scriptures and the keeping His Divine Commandments so that we may grow closer to Him and serve Him faithfully in this life.

A REAL ENCOUNTER with the living God is not only LIFE-GIVING, it is also LIFE-CHANGING! Do you want to know the living God? Do you want to partake of His Divine Life? Do you want His peace and truth? If so, contact a member of His Church who can help you do this. This is the reason God made you!

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