

Authority and Diakonia within the Mysterious Body of Our God According to the Orthodox Teaching

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Abstract

Our Saviour Jesus Christ, by assuming the humanity and through deification of his human nature from his divine hypostasis, extends his Mysterious Body within the world through the gracious act of the Holy Spirit. In this context, the entire divine work is accomplished from the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit, to bring back the humanity and the all creation as both living and operative organism to the source of the existence which is the Holy Trinity. Therefore, through her divine-human constitution, the Church represents the most-deep model of economy and sacrificial love of the Most Holy Trinity in the dialogical rapport with the world and in special with the human.

Authority within the Church is based in the historical plan on the ordination, which is the origin of the hierarchical system of organisation and creates special levels within the ecclesial community.

The diakonia and the authority are two sides both internal and external of the Church. The authority comes from the conscience that Son of God made Human is the Head of the Mysterious Body, and also the diakonia comes from Him. This is accomplished because He served first to the Father for His Church and after because of her constitution of the Body of the Head, and in this manner shares from His authority.