

A Summary of Doctrine of the Apostolic Orthodox Church

There is but one existence from which all others are derived and in which all others have their being—God: absolute, infinite, eternal, transcendent.

The manifestation of God is triune. In Christianity, this is known as the Holy Trinity, comprised of three Persons, or Aspects, co-equal, co-eternal: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Man is created in the image of God, a spark of Divine Fire, and is therefore also triune in nature, possessing a spirit, soul and body.

Christ is the manifestation of the Son's divinity, and exists as a spiritual presence in the world. And as Christ dwells also within all souls, so too is that same divinity gradually and continually unfolded in all humanity.

Man is a part of a vast interconnected succession of life, extending from the highest to the lowest. Man has a duty to aid those beings below him; as he does so, he is aided by those above him—the Communion of Saints and those Venerable and Holy Powers called Angels.

Man has an ethical responsibility to aid his fellow man. He also has the duty to discern the divine light “which lighteth every man” in himself.

Christ instituted vehicles of His Life and Love, “outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace,” which are called the Mysteries (Sacraments) of the Holy Church. As Christ is the Head of the Church, He is the True Minister of the Mysteries, the clergy functioning as earthly channels of God's grace.