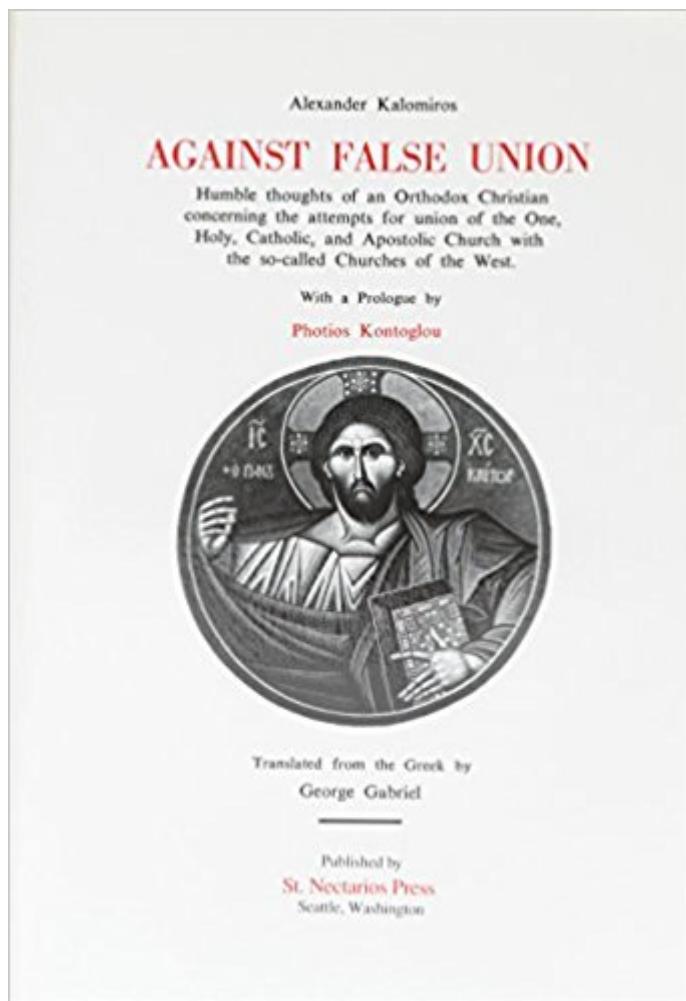


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Against False Union



Synopsis

Humble thoughts of an Orthodox Christian concerning the attempts for union of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church with the so-called churches of the West.

Book Information

Paperback: 170 pages

Publisher: Saint Nectarios Press (July 1, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0913026700

ISBN-13: 978-0913026700

Package Dimensions: 7.9 x 5.4 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #713,239 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #331 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Orthodoxy #142263 in Books > Religion & Spirituality

Customer Reviews

Humble thoughts of an Orthodox Christian concerning the attempts for union of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church with the so-called churches of the West.

The issues discussed in this book are much more subtle than the previous reviewer would have you think, e.g. leavened or unleavened bread is not a "cultural issue" but a question of whether Christ had a actual physical body. Dr. Kalomirov has done a great service in getting to the heart of the issues discussed and has proved himself to be an eminent Orthodox theologian on numerous occasions. I highly recommend this book for anyone wishing to understand this subject and the Orthodox position regarding Ecumenism.

While the author of the book is a layman, his knowledge of both the Orthodox theology and patristic tradition is deep and, quite obviously, not just theoretical. While the book is primarily intended for the Orthodox who are concerned with the heresy of ecumenism, this would also make a good read for any Christian, of any denomination, who is sincerely interested in learning about what separates Orthodox from the rest of Christian denominations. However, one must be prepared - the author is very passionate and does not try to soften his criticism of either ecumenists or Catholics, both of

whom he considers heretical groups, and not a part of the Church. It would not be hard to get offended by his tone - but one must also remember that this is a person who, whether correct or wrong, is sincerely trying to protect the unblemished Christian Tradition from those whom he perceives as "false prophets" and "wolves in the lamb's skin", so his passion, grief and defiance is quite justified and consistent with his position. In just one line - this is a great example of what a true militant Christian, who is battling this world and its prince, should look and feel like. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

You don't have to be Greek to believe that ecumenism can be a Trojan Horse. It can; but Our Lord's plea "that they may be one, even as the Father and I are one" demands something more than a flat denunciation. In so doing, Mr. Kalomiros does us both a service and a disservice. Many of the issues that have divided the Western from Eastern Churches are cultural, with only dubious theological importance (e.g. whether the Host should be leavened or unleavened). But even where significant theological issues are at stake, as with the Trinitarian implications of the "Filioque" dispute, it could well be argued that polemicism has led to imbalance on both sides. That the Nicene Creed did not mention the procession of the Holy Spirit from the Son is not the same thing as denying it. Likewise (despite my general admiration of him) Aquinas' Trinitarian theology on the Spirit as principle of Divine unity does threaten to obscure the monarchy of the Father. But if we look before this debate erupted, the Capodocian Fathers repeatedly spoke of the Spirit as proceeding from the Father THROUGH the Son. The tragic dismemberment of Christ's Body the Church, the issues involved, and what we share in common, are better handled in Orthodox Bishop Calistos Ware's "Orthodoxy"; and in Catholic Fr. Aidan Nichols' "Rome and the Eastern Churches". My exposure to the Capodocian Fathers' Trinitarian theology comes from "God's Human Face", by Christoph Cardinal Schönborn. In short, Mr. Kalomiros makes the case against false unity without a corresponding urgency for TRUE unity; and as if true unity could only mean a native language version of Greek Orthodoxy. Fulfilling Our Lord's command (uttered in Aramaic incidentally, not Greek or Latin) will require more than that.

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