

Examine Your Faith By Fr. E.H.

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith.”
“Test yourselves” (2 Cor. 13:5)

Indicate the answer(s) you agree with, to the extent that you do.

1. By saying in the Creed that “I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church” do we mean that:

- 1) The Orthodox Church is the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.
- 2) The Roman Catholic Church is the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.
- 3) The Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches are the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.
- 4) The Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant Churches are the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

2. Which one is the “One Baptism” that we confess in the Creed?

- a) The Orthodox Baptism.
- b) The Orthodox and Roman Catholic Baptisms.
- c) Every baptism in the name of the Holy Trinity.
- d) Every baptism in the name of Jesus Christ.

3. By saying the Orthodox Church is the Church founded by Christ, do we also say that

- a) Our faith is the only true faith.
- b) Our God is the only true God.
- c) None of the above.

4. Characterize this quote: “The Orthodox Church is the only way to salvation and life eternal.”

- a) Preposterous, blasphemous, limiting the grace of the Holy Spirit.
- b) True.

5. Which is true:

- a) The Orthodox Church is part of the universal Church.
- b) The Orthodox Church is the universal Church.

6. Choose the statements you agree with.

- 1) Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.
- 2) Christ is a way, a truth, and a life.
- 3) The Orthodox Church is the way to salvation and life eternal.
- 4) The Orthodox Church is a way to salvation and life eternal.

7. By saying the Orthodox Church is the Church founded by Christ, do we also say that

- a) We are the only ones who will be saved.
- b) Every baptized Orthodox Christian will be saved.
- c) None of the above.

8. True or false?

- a) The Church is imperfect, wanting in purity and holiness.
- b) The members of the Church are imperfect, wanting in purity and holiness.

9. We should practice open communion

- a) with everyone who believes in Jesus Christ.
- b) with everyone who shares the same faith with us.

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10. Which of the following statements do you agree with?

- a) It is a pity that Christians who share a common faith in Christ and whose faith is based on the same Bible, are divided over details most of us don't understand any how.
- b) Whether one believes in the sacraments or not; whether one prays to the Saints or not; whether one venerates icons or not; whether one accepts only the scripture or accepts also other teachings which are not however against scripture—all these things, and more, should not be a cause of division among Christians.

11. Circle only the answers you fully agree with, if any.

- a) All who believe in God believe in the same God (after all there is only one God).
- b) All who believe in Christ are members of His Church (after all there is only one Church).
- c) Venerating icons is like idol worship.
- d) Venerating icons is optional.

12. Circle the statement you agree with.

- a) Christian unity should be achieved in love. We don't need to agree in everything, before we can have sacramental union.
- b) Christian unity should be achieved in love *and* truth. There should be unanimity of faith before we can have sacramental union.

13. Circle the statement(s) you agree with.

- a) Whether one believes that the holy Eucharist is a bloodless sacrifice or a symbol or a memorial, it is their business and it should not stand between Christians.
- b) I don't need to go to confession to receive forgiveness of my sins. All I need to do in order to receive forgiveness is to accept God's forgiveness.
- c) You cannot be Orthodox and believe in reincarnation, practice witchcraft or abortion and never go to confession.

14. Circle the statement(s) you agree with.

- a) The majority of non Orthodox Christians may not believe exactly what we believe, but that does not make them heretics. Only those Christians who actively and publicly oppose the Church's beliefs are heretics.
- b) All non Orthodox Christians are heretics.
- c) All the heretics condemned by the Church believed in Jesus Christ.

15. Which statement do you agree with?

- a) Anathema (excommunication) is a hateful act, unbecoming of a loving community.
- b) Anathema is an act of love ("tough love"), a strong medicine to bring to his senses someone who is dying spiritually.

16. Circle the statement(s) you agree with.

- a) Christ has done it all for us. We are saved by faith alone, not by works.
- b) Holiness is optional. We can be saved without it (after all who is holy?)
- c) Every Christian can follow his or her faith tradition and still be saved.
- d) None of the above

17. What is needed for salvation is

- a) faith alone.
- b) faith and works.
- c) faith and works and God's grace.

18. God's grace is obtained

- a) through faith.
- b) through works.
- c) through faith, works and the holy sacraments.

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19. Works means

- a) Everything we offer to God, other than faith which is opposite to works.
- b) Faith is one of the “works” we offer to God, together with love, and the other virtues and our obedience to God’s commandments.

20. Which statement do you agree with?

- a) If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you are automatically saved.
- b) If you have faith, humility, forgiveness, obedience, strive to live Christ’s life, love others as Christ loved us and remain faithful to the end you may rely on Christ’s mercy.

21. Circle the statement(s) you agree with.

- a) We must seek love among Christians, instead of dividing ourselves with dogmas.
- b) Christian disunity is a great scandal. We must strive to unite at any cost.
- c) Dogmas divide; love unites. Therefore we should not insist on dogma, beyond belief in Jesus Christ and the Holy Trinity, and unite in the bond of love.
- d) What is of essence among Christians is to believe in the Bible and accept Christ as our Savior.
- e) I believe only what’s in the Bible, not in any traditions of men.
- f) The Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church are sister Churches.
- g) None of the above

22. Circle “Yes” or “No” to these questions:

- a) Should I attend interfaith unity gatherings and non-denominational Bible study groups?
Yes No
- b) When getting together with my non-Orthodox relatives and friends, as over dinner, for example, should I be praying with them?
Yes No
- c) When I am invited by my non-Orthodox relatives and friends to go to their church should I go to show that I am ecumenically minded? **Yes No**
- d) When in fulfilling a social obligation I find myself in a non-Orthodox church should I participate in prayer and worship? **Yes No**
- e) None of the above

23. Who is an evangelist?

- a) Every believer.
- b) Only the priests.
- c) Only those appointed by the Church.

24. In order to engage in Orthodox evangelism

- a) We must convince everyone we encounter to become Orthodox.
- b) We must not force anyone. We should dialogue only with willing listeners.

25. Do you agree with the following statement:

We have gathered together to do the work of an evangelist. Let’s do it, and leave out the particular beliefs of each one of us, or else we’ll be tangled up with unfruitful dogmatic issues and opinions, which are bound to fragment us, and ultimately hamper our ministry.

- a) no
- b) yes

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26. Do you agree or disagree? (Circle those you agree with)

- a) If we are to live together as one nation under God, we must learn how to tolerate others, accepting their ideologies, philosophies, traditions, beliefs and religious convictions, trying never to offend their sensitivities.
- b) Religion should never divide us. We should respect the faith of others and never argue with anyone about religious issues.
- c) Believing that you are right and everyone else is wrong is religious fanaticism and intolerable bigotry.
- d) The gospel of Christ cannot be changed, altered or compromised to suit our desires.
- e) I consider my faith as my personal preference. It is no better and no worse than anyone else's faith.
- f) Just because we have strong views about a variety of issues, such as abortion, divorce, stem cell research, euthanasia, capital punishment, homosexuality, female priesthood, etc., it does not mean that we need to constantly bombard those outside our faith who do not share our views.
- g) If the Church has taken a position on an issue, we can and should try to understand it and read and talk about it, but not argue about it or reject it.
- h) When we engage in conversations with others on religious, moral and social issues, we should assert what our Church teaches and denounce vehemently those with whom we disagree.
- i) The recent calamity (*) showed us that the humanity we all share and the goodness we show toward one another is what matters, not the religious and ethnic diversities among us, which tend to divide us.
- j) Deep down what really matters is to be good and to do good, and to live in peace and harmony with one another. This is the aim of every religion.

27. Circle the statement(s) you agree with.

- a) Our faith, as any religious faith, is an opinion. Truth is what I believe.
- b) Truth is Christ. Our faith is not an opinion, but divine revelation, which leads us to theosis.
- c) The holy Fathers of the Church were human beings like us and what they have expressed is their own personal views and opinions, which have no more and no less weight than the opinions and views of anyone of us.
- d) We should not doubt the teachings of the holy Fathers when they agree in matters of faith and moral conduct, but we should accept them, while asking for divine illumination to understand them.

28. The purpose of Orthodox participation in ecumenical dialogue is to

- a) achieve union of all churches into the one Church of Christ, divided among many denominations, has different flowers in the same garden.
- b) call all men to union with Christ in the one, true Church of Christ, the Orthodox Church, the True Vine.

29. In ecumenical gatherings with non Orthodox Christians

- a) we should pray together that the Holy Spirit may lead us to the truth.
- b) we should give witness to our faith, avoiding praying together until such time as unity of faith is achieved.

END