

the orthodox christian

Excerpts from [The Faith We Hold](#) by Archbishop Paul of Finland ([top](#))

The Orthodox Christian belongs to the Body of Christ, the Church of Christ. This Eastern Orthodox Church is organically the same congregation (or ecclesia) which was born at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem on Pentecost, a direct continuation from the Apostles by laying on of hands from each generation of priests to the next. The Orthodox Christian recognizes the rich Christian heritage and proclaims that he belongs to this Church, which corresponds to the Church of the Apostles as does a grown-up person correspond to a picture taken of him as a child.

The Orthodox Christian has been baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity and follows the ideals and beliefs of both the Scriptures and Sacred Tradition. He believes in a living and loving God, Whose Grace protects and guides him in the path of redemption. He believes that God has revealed Himself in the Bible through the Prophets and especially in the Person of Jesus Christ, His only-begotten Son who is man's Savior. He especially believes in the Incarnation of Christ as God-Man, in His Crucifixion and Resurrection, in His Gospel and Commandments, and in the world to come.

Excerpts from [The Inner Kingdom](#) by Bishop Kallistos Ware ([top](#))

"... Fr. Lev Gillet was asked to define the term 'Orthodoxy.' He replied: 'An Orthodox is one who accepts the Apostolic Tradition and who lives in communion with the bishops who are the appointed teachers of this Tradition ... Orthodox faith is inseparable from Eucharistic communion ... I had come to believe all that the Orthodox Church believed; yet the 'mode and process' by which I had reached these beliefs was in a 'Protestant one.' My faith was only an individual opinion,' and not 'the faith of the Community;' for I could not say that all my fellow Anglicans believed the same as I did, or that mine was the faith taught by all the Anglican bishops with whom I was in communion. Only by becoming a full member of the Orthodox Church -- by entering into full and visible communion with the Orthodox bishops who were the appointed teachers of the Orthodox faith -- could I obtain 'the assurance of truth.' "