ST. PAUL’S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Religious Education Discussion

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*Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy*

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Chapter Three: The Magisterial Reformation

1. How and when did the Protestant Reformation begin? Who started it? What were two of his issues with the Roman Catholic Church? Did he intend to form a new church?

2. Why is this phase called the Magisterial Reformation?

3. Name some of the denominations produced by this phase.

4. Name the five solas that characterized most Reformation theology.

5. Initially, what were the reformers trying to accomplish with Sola Scriptura?

6. In his rejoinder to Eck, who does Luther invest with the authority to interpret Scripture for himself? For everyone else? Who had previously been invested with that authority?

7. Either way, what happened to the idea of an authoritative tradition of biblical interpretation?

8. Was Calvin’s argument against religious iconography based on a complete knowledge of the history of its use?

9. For the Orthodox Church, has there ever been a break with the early Church of the apostles?

10. Without Sola Scriptura, the question of ecclesiastical authority comes into play and the believer finds what?

11. Name some of the Orthodox objections to Sola Scriptura.

12. If everyone is qualified to interpret Scripture, who can judge if someone is teaching heresy?

13. In what year and by whom was produced the earliest known exact list of the twenty-seven books we know as the New Testament?

14. For the Orthodox, Christ gave authority to interpret scripture to the church or each individual believer?

15. Define Sola Fide and identify what it was in response to.

16. How does Orthodoxy differ with this understanding of faith?

17. Define Sola Gratia and what it was in response to.

18. In what way could Orthodoxy agree with this approach?

19. What episode from the Bible illustrates the Orthodox understanding of this synergy?

20. Contrast the Reformation and Orthodox understandings of grace.

21. Define Sola Christus and what it was in response to.

22. What is the Orthodox understanding of the “priesthood of all believers” and the role of the clergy?

23. Define Soli Deo Gloria and what it was in response to.

24. What qualification would Orthodoxy add to this doctrine?

25. Why is Biblical inerrancy problematic for the Orthodox?

26. How many sacraments do Lutherans generally recognize?

27. What does the author describe as their position on whether the bread and wine of holy Communion actually become the body and blood of Christ?

28. Why does Orthodoxy reject the five Canons of Dort also known by their acronym TULIP?

29. What is the Orthodox understanding of the condition of man’s free will after the Fall?

30. When and why did the Anglican Church come into existence?

31. How does the author define the via media, the approach of the Anglican Church?

32. Which does the Methodist Church tend to emphasize, personal salvation or the social gospel?

33. What is the linchpin of Protestantism?

34. What are some possible points of contact between traditional Protestants and the Orthodox?

Chapter Four: The Radical Reformation

1. The Radical Reformers felt that Luther and Calvin had not gone far enough in their reforms, so they changed what?

2. How did the Radical Reforms understand the relationship between an individual believer and God?

3. What is Pietism?

4. As Pietism developed, what came to be most important?

5. Why are the practices and results of the pietistic movement not something the Orthodox Church can laud?

6. What can happen to Christians who make sincerity the key to spiritual life?

7. What role does Pietism play in our larger civic culture?

8. According to the Orthodox Church, what is the purpose of a moral life in salvation?

9. What did the Radical Reformers do with Tradition and Scripture?

10. Did they really eliminate all tradition?

11. Describe congregationalism and where it typically invests authority?

12. Rejecting the Sacraments, the Radical Reformers eventually rejected also what?

13. The rejection of things physical for the mental and emotional eventually led to the rejection of what?

14. What is the Orthodox understanding of the role of physical matter in the economy of salvation?

15. How does the concept of a Believer’s Baptism differ from that of an Orthodox baptism?

16. What is the Great Apostasy?

17. From the Orthodox point of view, what are some problems with this teaching?

18. The Radical Reformers essentially rejected the visible church for the invisible church, again showing their preference for the mental and emotional over the physical. How does Orthodoxy balance the visible and invisible church concepts?

19. What are some aspects of the Anabaptists that the Orthodox can appreciate?

20. Who were the Puritans and how would you describe them?

21. Who were the Quakers?

22. When did the Baptists first appear as a distinct community?

23. What are the majority and minority Baptist positions on salvation?

24. What are some of their typical beliefs?

25. The Radical Reformers did not see themselves as innovating in doctrine or practice, but as rediscovering what? Why is it difficult to authenticate their claims?

 26. What was ultimately rejected from the spiritual life by the Radical Reformers?