

Appendix I: Orthodoxy Quick Reference

1. The Holy Trinity

- One God
- God is uncreated, existing before all created things.
- God is three Persons, one in Essence.
- All three Persons are absolutely equal.
- All attributes of God are either unique to each Person (e.g., Fatherhood) or common to all three (e.g., perfection).
- The Father is the eternal Source of the Godhead. The Son is begotten of the Father, while the Spirit proceeds from the Father.
- God is unknowable essence and knowable energies.

2. Jesus Christ

- Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity.
- He is fully divine and of one essence with the Father.
- He is fully human and of one essence with mankind.
- He is one Person in two natures.
- He truly was born, lived, died and bodily rose from the dead.
- He is the Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures.

3. The Church

- There is only one Church, the Orthodox Church.
- The Church is the Body of Christ. He is a member and its only Head.
- Salvation is in and through the Church.
- Salvation is *theosis* (“deification,” “divinization”), becoming more like God in union with Him.
- Salvation is not merely a change in status, but in actual being.
- Salvation is by God’s power but only with man’s active cooperation, termed *synergy*.
- The sacraments really communicate grace by means of their administration from the episcopacy, who are successors to the Apostles.
- Christ will return again, and that will be the end of time. At that time, all the dead will rise, the righteous to a resurrection of life and the wicked to a resurrection of death.