

On the Occasion of the
Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the
Repose of the Ever-Memorable Elder
Philotheos (Zervakos) (†1980)



Text I

*“The Pope is a False Christ”**

Abstract

The meeting of Patriarch Athenagoras with Pope Paul VI and the beginning of the “Dialogue of Love” in the 1960s, with a view towards union, are condemned. Our Lord’s prophecies concerning false prophets apply to the heretical Pope. The Patriarch and the Pope suffer from Satanic pride, the one because he consents to be called “His All-Holiness,” and the other because he believes he is infallible. Amity and unity with the Pope should not be accepted, as he remains unrepentant. The Pope ought to return in repentance to the One Faith, to the One Baptism, and to Orthodox dogmas and Traditions. A method of effecting the dialogue on the basis of the Symbol of Faith.

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Paros, 24 February 1968

“...In your letter, you wrote to me that a certain Priest gave a speech in your village square in the presence of four other Priests, and that in his talk he referred to the matter of the dialogues and meetings between the Patriarch and the Pope, exhorting the people gladly to accept their efforts; and that the old notions people have must disappear because that is what love demands, and that union must come about. And that

the Priest who was speaking then publicly announced that, some months earlier, he had gone to Venice and concelebrated with a Catholic priest.

“When our Lord Jesus Christ, the God-Man, was on earth, He said to his disciples and to His listeners: ‘Beware of false prophets, which come in the guise of sheep, but inwardly are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.’¹

“And, elsewhere, He says: ‘Beware, for many deceivers and false Christs and false prophets shall appear in the world and shall deceive many, even from among the elect.’²

“The Pope is a false Christ because he thinks and believes that he is infallible; that is, sinless. He has deceived and still deceives many—namely, whoever believes him.

“But that the Patriarch should be called—and should desire to be called—‘His All-Holiness’ is also a great delusion.

“When our Lord Jesus Christ, who was a Perfect, Sinless man and Perfect God, was addressed by a lawyer as ‘Good Teacher,’ He did not accept it, but rather said to the lawyer: ‘Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God.’³

“The Patriarch consents to be called ‘His All-Holiness’; and while people call God Holy— ‘Holy God’—the Patriarch does not condescend to be called ‘Holy,’ but, even higher than God—‘His All-Holiness.’ There is nothing worse!

“They both [the Pope and the Patriarch] suffer from Luciferian pride; and pride is the treasury and strongbox of all evils, sins, delusions, and heresies.

“Christ said: ‘Learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.’⁴

“The Pope and the Patriarch have not accepted lessons from Christ. They have taken lessons from Lucifer. ‘Learn of me, for I am proud, for I will be like the Most High.’⁵

“Christ said to His Disciples: ‘When ye shall have done all things, say that ye are unprofitable servants and sinners.’⁶

“Christ said: ‘He who desireth to be first shall be last of all.’⁷

“Patriarch Athenagoras says to the Pope: ‘You are the first, I am the second; open your arms and accept me. Behold, I recognize you first; and I will say to my flock—which I will deliver over to you—to accept the union and the love.’

“But this love is not genuine; it is deceitful, hypocritical, and pernicious. It resembles the love mentioned in the fable: that even if the wolf grows old and changes his fur, he does not change his mind.

“As a veteran Confessor, I say to the sheep of Christ: ‘Be on your guard. Do not accept amity or unity with the Pope, because even though the Pope has changed the appearance of his face contrary to God’s commandment...,⁸ even though he has changed the look of his body and has transformed himself into a woman, he has not changed his mind.’

“For there to be a union with the Papists and the Pope, the Pope must repent and return to the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, which has been transmitted to us by Christ through the Holy Apostles and the Holy Fathers of the seven Œcumenical Synods.

*“The Pope has broken away and ought to return to the **One Faith**, which they [the Papists] have distorted; to the **One Baptism**, which they have dispensed with and have replaced with a sprinkling and affusion of water; and to the **dogmas and Holy Traditions**, which they have completely despised.*

“And if they desire dialogues and conversations, they must be conducted, at every moment, on the basis of the Symbol of Faith:

“Do you agree? Do you repudiate your error and your heresies? Are you returning to God and the Holy Church? We accept you. You do not consent? Go where the Holy Apostles, the Holy Fathers, and the seven Œcumenical Synods send you—to anathema.’

“So, my beloved, the Priest who spoke to you about union and said to you that he had concelebrated with a Catholic priest is not an Orthodox Priest. From the moment that he agreed and concelebrated with a heretic, he is a false Priest and betrayer of his Faith.

Beware of such ones, who come in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves....

*With paternal love and best wishes,
† Archimandrite Philotheos Zervakos”*



*Source: Ὁ Ὁσσιος Φιλόθεος τῆς Πάρου, No. 13 (January-April 2005), pp. 179-181. Editorial presentation ours.

Notes

1. Cf. St. Matthew 7:15-16.
2. Cf. St. Matthew 24:24.
3. St. Matthew 19:16.
4. St. Matthew 11:29
5. Cf. Isaiah 14:14.
6. Cf. St. Luke 17:10.
7. Cf. St. Mark 9:35.
8. Cf. Leviticus 21:5.