

# THE HOLY TRINITY SAVES IN THE CHURCH

## 1. Salvation: the ontological restoration

### a) Salvation is:

\* a divine GIFT, through which:

+ man is united with Christ, the God-Man

+ man is delivered from sin and death

+ man is brought back to the heavenly Kingdom

### b) Salvation is:

+ not a legalistic process

+ an ontological process of transformation and restoration, which can be best described by the process of grafting;

- Christ's NEW HUMAN NATURE is the saved human nature, THE VINE, upon which every individual Christian is grafted so that their corrupted, "wild", human nature can be restored through a "spiritual osmosis", if you will, with the restored human nature in Christ.

+ such an understanding of salvation, as an ontological process, leaves no room for the concept of "individual salvation", the "me and Christ", concept

- the Early Church believed and taught that "we go to heaven together and to hell alone"

- the Early Church emphasized the sense of communion and community as key elements of the process of salvation

## 2. Salvation is THE FREE GIFT FROM GOD, THE HOLY TRINITY

### a) God, the Holy Trinity:

\* created us as a free gift, out of love

\* sustains us as a free gift, out of love

\* saves us as a free gift, out of love

### b) because salvation is God's free gift, out of love:

\* we cannot initiate it

\* we cannot merit it

\* we can only OPEN OURSELVES TO IT, for God's love will not force it upon us

### c) All Three Persons of the Holy Trinity are involved in our salvation:

\* the Father saves us

IN

\* the Son who saves us

THROUGH

\* the Holy Spirit who saves us

### 3. The Holy Trinity saves us in the Church, the Body of Christ

#### a) the Bible teaches us that the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ

\* "mystical" is a key word, which warns us that the reality of the Church cannot be comprehended with the human intellect

\* the Mystical Body is made up of:

- + those who are "called" to unite with Him
- + those who are "grafted" through grace
- + those who "respond" with faith and repentance
- + those who "abide" and "produce" the fruit of good works

#### b) the Bible teaches us that Christ is the HEAD of the Church

\* His Person made up of:

- + full God
- + full man, with the new, restored humanity
- + is the head of the Church

\* the members, you and I, who are caught in the ontological renewal of salvation, are the mystical expansion of Christ humanity, like the body is the expansion of the head

\* this mystery is taught to us by verses such as:

- + Ephesians 4, 9-16
- + Colossians 1, 18 & 2, 19

#### c) the Bible also teaches us that Christ is the Cornerstone of the new temple, the Church

\* the original humanity before the fall of Adam and Eve was the temple of the living God, for God was to be praised in all His creatures, especially in man

\* through the fall, the human nature became an "idolatrous temple", upon which, he praised himself and the creation, thus turning away from God

\* Christ's new human nature is the restored temple, in which man turns away from himself and towards God, the only subject of worship; He talked about Himself as the temple in verses such as:

- + Matthew 12, 6
- + John 2, 19-21

\* the Bible calls each and everyone of us to become temples of the Holy Spirit, as we can see in:

- + 1 Corinthians 3, 16
- + 1 Corinthians 6, 19

\* the Bible tells us that all the members of the Church together, caught up in this process of transformation, are the true temple, and Christ is the Cornerstone, as we can see in:

- + Ephesians 2, 17-22

- d) both these images of the Church show a unit working together:
- \* starting with:
    - + the Head
    - + the Cornerstone
  - \* in every part:
    - + the militant part of the body
    - + the triumphant part of the body
  - \* through every part
  - \* thus, the Head "saves" the "toe" through the "neck", down all the way, through every cell

4. The Bible teaches us that God SAVES ALL THROUGH ALL

- a) GRACE SAVES, as we can see in:
  - \* Ephesians 2, 5 & 8
- b) BAPTISM SAVES, as we can see in:
  - \* 1 Peter 3, 21
- c) FAITH SAVES, as we can read in:
  - \* Luke 7, 50
- d) THE NAME OF JESUS SAVES, as we read in:
  - \* Acts 4, 10-12
- e) THE WORD SAVES, as we can read in:
  - \* James 1, 21
- f) PRAYER SAVES, as we can read in:
  - \* James 5, 15
- g) APOSTLE PAUL SAVES, as do all the other Apostles, we must assume; see:
  - \* 1 Corinthians 9, 22
- h) Apostle Paul gives TIMOTHY the call to SAVE HIMSELF AND THOSE WHO HEAR HIM, as do all the bishops like him, we must assume; see:
  - \* 1 Timothy 4, 16
- i) WIFE and HUSBAND CAN SAVE EACH OTHER, as we read in:
  - \* 1 Corinthians 7, 16
  - \* we could assume the same for parents and children, brothers and sisters
- j) CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO SAVE EACH OTHER, as we read in:
  - \* Jude 23
- k) CHILDBEARING ALSO SAVES, as we read in:
  - \* 1 Timothy 2, 15

5. The Process of salvation includes all those who are part of the Body or the Temple

- a) Communion of Saints, in Christ, makes the process possible:
  - \* Ephesians 1, 10
  - \* Ephesians 1, 22-23
  - \* Ephesians 3, 15