




When wrong teaching divides

HG Anba Rafael
A renowned
teacher in the
church reviewed
old and new ideas
that caused
confusion and
division



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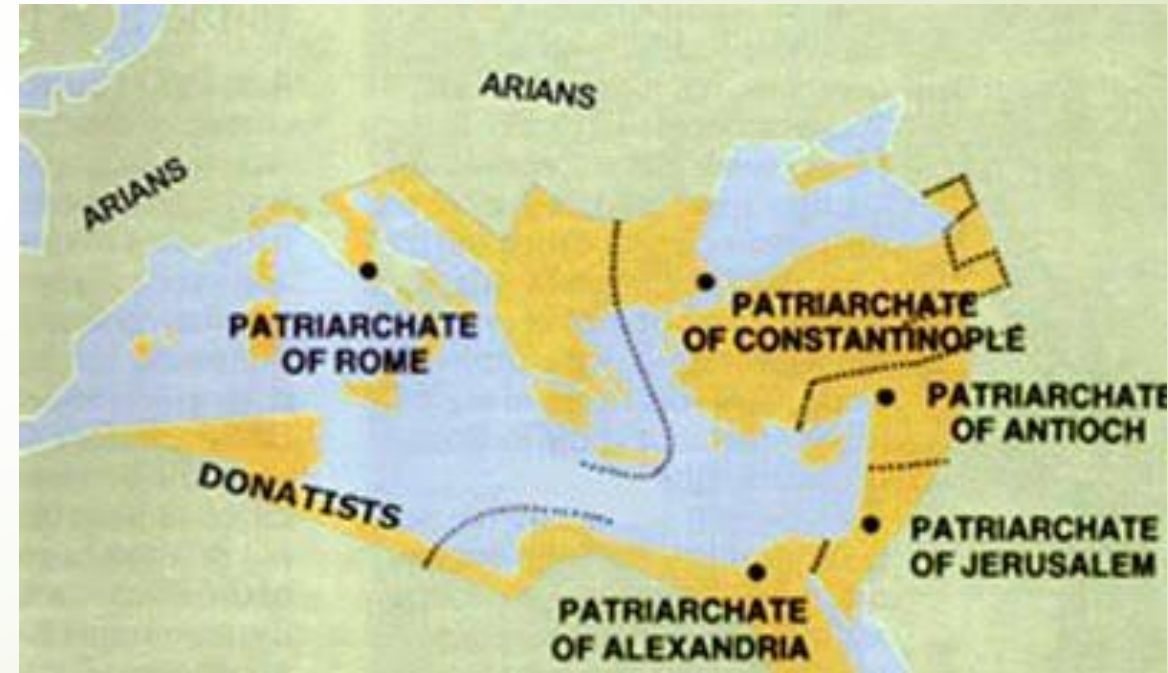
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- This is our spiritual life, to **meditate** and **worship**
 - Also **good to study**, but **in the light of the scriptures and the Fathers of the church**
 - Coming up or following **new ideas**, can cause **confusion ,divisions and suffering**
 - “ I hear that there are divisions among you “ St Paul wrote
 - The devil sees service, sound teaching, thriving **Christian community**, and **doesn't keep silent**, tries hard to sow confusion and division





HG Anba Raphael

- The **atheists** are already in the hands of the devil
- The **lawless who live in sin** are already in the hands of the devil
- Those who are **completely absorbed in their business with no time at all for the Lord**, they are very exposed to the temptation of the devil
- We are left with the **church people**, how can the devil tempt them, sow **confusing ideas**, **create confusion and division**, so beware

- The whole Christian world was one **till 451, Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria, Constantine , were the east. Rome was the west**
- Always exchange of ideas, but unity
- The East was **Greek**, and the west was **Latin**
- **IN 451, Chalcedon,**
 , **Pope Dioscoros kept to the faith, God the incarnate has one nature, , the faith of Pope Athanasius and Pope Cyril.**
was excommunicated, there was a lot of politics involved
sent to exile, Coptic, Ethiopian, Eritrean, Syrian, Armenian split from the rest of the Church = Oriental Churches




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- The Emperor appointed an administrator to Egypt, who also headed the Byzantine church in Egypt, so **a ruler and head of the church that follows Constantinople**
 - **The Coptic Pope could not enter Alexandria for 200 years, division led to a lot of suffering**
 - ordained secretly
 - **Churches were only open to those who follow Constantinople, The Copts could only worship secretly, or in monasteries**
 - During that time , the church concentrated on **Pastoral care** and the **Liturgies**

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- The rest of the orthodox churches called **Eastern Churches remained united with Rome till 1051**
 - Again, a **new theology** appeared the **Filioque**
 - That the **HS proceeded from the Father and the Son**, the **traditional teaching** was that the HS proceeded from the Father
 - **Like Chalcedon, there were a lot of politics.**
 - Rome wanted to dominate. **The Pope appointed Patriarchs in the Eastern regions** who follow him, but in the west , there was only one Pope
 - The Eastern churches **separated** from the West + **The Great Schism**

The straw that broke the camel's back
Like Chalcedon, more politics and less
Theology



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- Further New Theology appeared in the Eastern Churches “**Theosis**” = Deification of man
 - **Pope Athanasios taught that the Lord took what is ours and gave us what is His**
 - The Eastern theologians **developed the teaching into their understanding= New Patristics**
 - **Take the Early Fathers teaching and add new interpretation,**
 - To keep to St Athanasios teaching is fine
 - We aim to have **some qualities** of God like **love** and **forgiveness yes, but we are not creators, almighty, or controllers of everything. God is**
 - **Certain characters belong to God alone**

➤ Move on to the **16th Century**

➤ The **Catholic Church** established certain **wrong** teaching.

➤ **Can one give the church money to get forgiveness to their loved ones who died= Purgatory**


➤ **Martin Luther protested**, eventually that led into **further split in the church**

➤ **Luther wanted to keep the sacraments especially Baptism and the Holy Communion**

➤ **John Calvin went further into wrong teachings, the Holy Communion is symbolic** , what matters is **Faith**. Ignoring essentials in our Christian Faith

➤ **More confusion , more division**

➤ **My flesh is real food and blood is real drink, whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him**

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- Elijah was **afraid**, hid in a cave from Isabel
 - **I have had enough Lord, take my life**
 - **He slept, the angel touched him, woke him up, get up and eat, lay down and slept**
 - Again , the angel touched him, **the journey is too much for you, get up and eat**
 - **So, he got up, ate and was strengthened, he travelled for 40 days**
 - **This is the Holy communion, the life journey is long and difficult**
 - **The Holy Communion is our food that strengthens us**

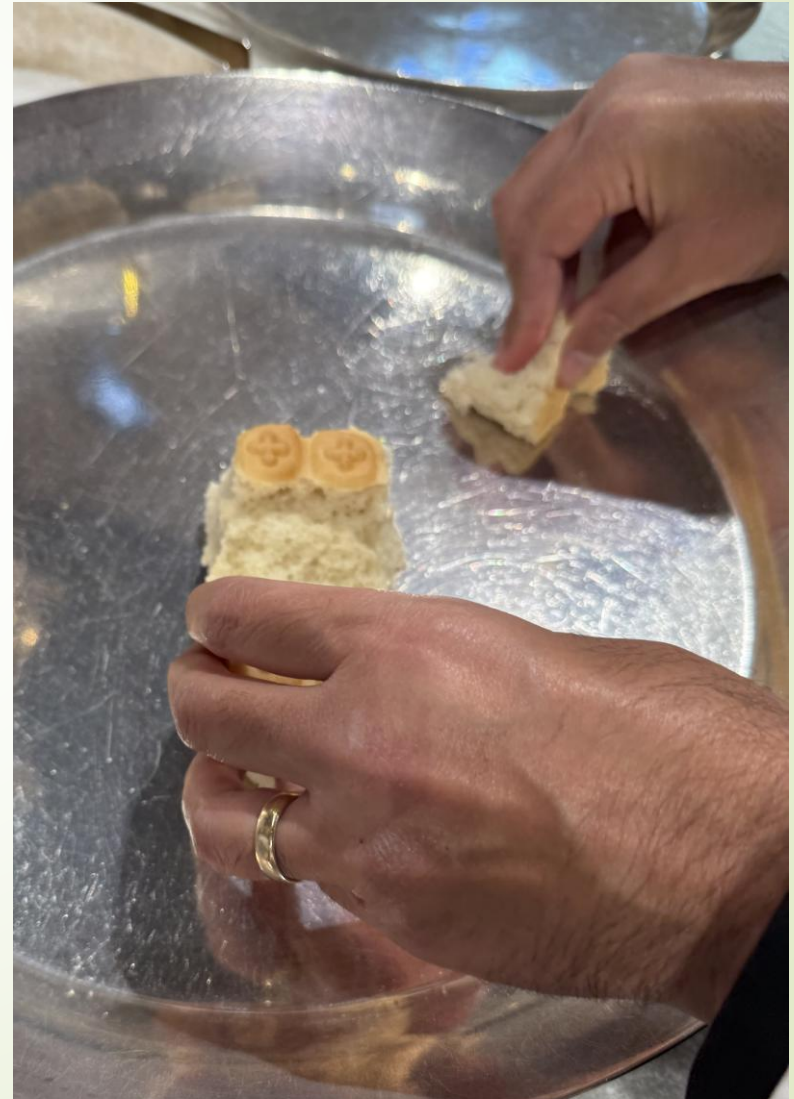
Abouna Bishoy Kamel :

the small parts of the body of the Lord in the Patten are the people who are drifting and are away from the Lord

The Priest makes every effort to join them to the body


This is what we do as servants of the Lord too






How Russia became Christian

- **1000 yrs ago, the Russian King** sent people to find the **church most devout in worship in Europe**, it was the Greek Church
- **So, the small Greek Church became the mother Church of the large Russian Church**
- **In 1917, the Communists ruled Russia**
- **Much persecution to Christians followed**
- **Many fled to America**
- **New Theology was started by the Russians in the USA**

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- The Russians in the USA saw **how criminals were treated in USA and Europe**
 - **The criminals had a lot of rights**, eg will not talk unless represented by a lawyer, some prisons have a Gym, cinemas and even swimming pool
 - **So, if man can be so kind to criminals , how can God send sinners to hell**
 - **So, there is no hell, it is all symbolic. Hell is just being separated from God**
 - **Then the words of the Lord are symbolic only**

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- So, changing the scriptures in order to achieve a new concepts
 - Another new idea, the cross is only to show God's love for us, TRUE
 - But for the Lord Jesus to be crucified to carry our sins , including the sinful nature that we inherited from Adam, No
 - Actually, **Adam was a myth**, not true, just **mythology** to show certain good teaching. **we did not inherit the sinful nature from Adam**
 - A lot of new thinking , creating confusion and divisions

- But the Bible teaches : for as in Adam we all die, so, in Christ all will be made alive
- We believe the scriptures as they are,
- **A typical myth** , a man and a donkey, riding, cruel, walking , silly, carrying the donkey, they are fools

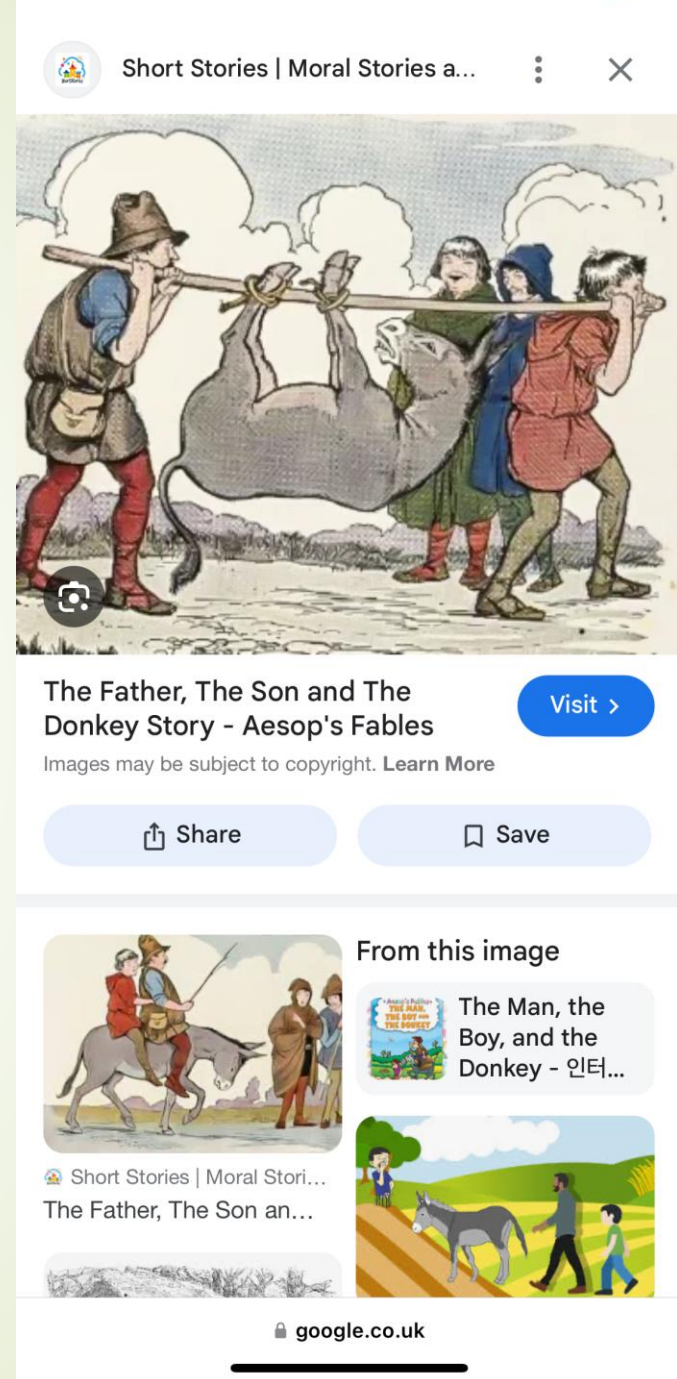
The aim , **you can never please all people**

Good concepts


This is **NOT HOW WE READ THE SCRIPTURES:**

THE WORDS I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU- THEY ARE

FULL OF THE SPIRIT AND LIFE : Jn 6:63



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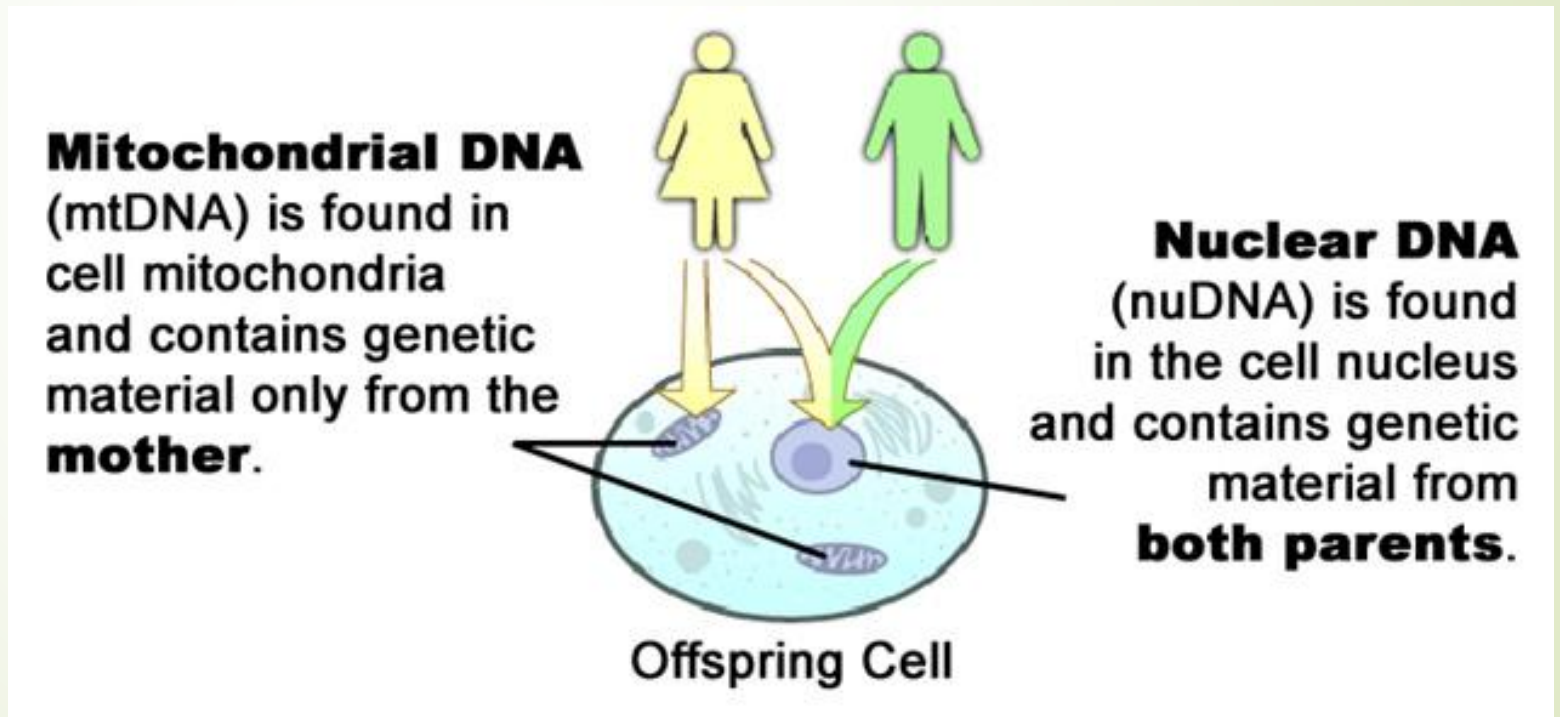
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Science : We all came from one woman,
science called her Eve
Then Even and Adam were not a myth





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- **The Cross showed the Love of the Lord for us**
 - **But also, our Lord carried on the cross our sins and the sinful nature that we inherited from Adam**
 - **WITHOUT SHEDDING OF BLOOD THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS**
 - **He bore our suffering, we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted Is 53:4**
 - **St Paul : we preach Christ crucified , a stumbling block to the Jews**
 - **Yet this is our faith**
 - **Cross is Love but also it is carrying our sins and accepting death instead of us, this is how our Lord lifted the eternal punishment for those who believe in him**

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- **The new thinkers don't like the idea of punishment, enough that cross is love**
 - The new thinkers find **the idea of a sacrifice too much**. Love is enough
 - The **traditional teaching** is sound : if you sinned against a slave , it is minor
 - **But if you sin against the King, you must die**
 - **We deserve death as we sinned against the Lord- the King of kings**
 - **But He carried the punishment on our behalf on the cross and died on our behalf. He paid the price we should have paid**
 - **The Cross is both love and atonement for our sins**

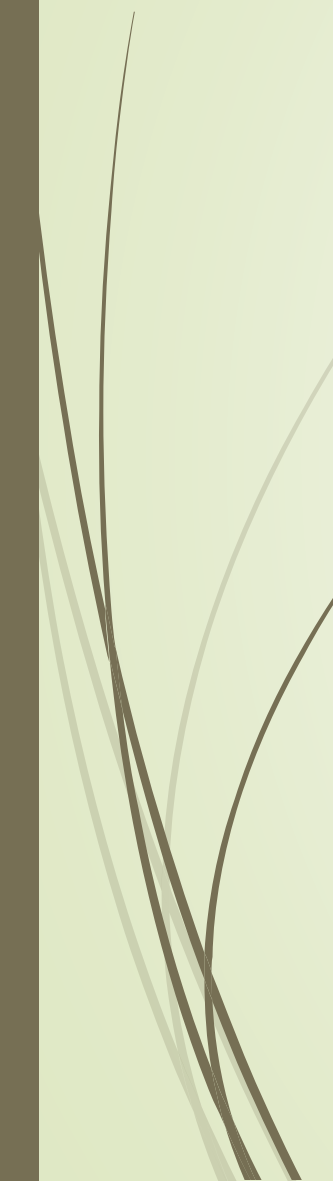
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- **The sufferings of the Lord on the cross were necessary for our salvation**
 - **HE WAS PIERCED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS. AND BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED- Isaiah 53**
 - **He was crucified, risen, ascended and gave us His Body and Blood to sustain us**
 - **The Cross is not God's love only, on the Cross the Lord paid our debts**
 - **When Adam sinned, the human nature got corrupted,**
 - **We inherited the sinful nature**


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- **In the Gregorian Mass :**
 - **One plant did you forbid me to eat of**
I did eat out of my own will, I put away your law
 - **We were not around when Adam ate from the tree, but he sinned , and we inherited the sinful nature through him**
 - **When we disobeyed your commandment through the serpent's deceit**
 - **We were not around when Adam and Eve listened to the serpents**
 - **But we inherited our sinful nature through Adam**


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- So, the new theology that there is no such thing as inherited sin/ original sin is wrong, the scriptures teach differently
 - **Adam** sinned , **Jesus** , forgives sin
 - **Adam** died **Jesus** rose from the dead
 - **Adam's** nature was corrupted with sin **Jesus** gives us eternal life
 - Jesus is the second Adam as St Paul taught us



➔ God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus




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- **In the Gregorian Mass**
 - **You blessed my nature in you**
 - **This is how the corrupted sinful nature of ours is healed through the Lord**
 - **You raised up my first fruit to heaven**
 - **How, we have not been raised up to heaven yet**
 - **It is the sinful Human nature that we inherited from Adam, got healed in Christ, and raised to heaven**
 - **Now the door is open to us in heaven when we die**




➔ To the one who is
victorious , I will give
the right to sit with me
on my throne= the new

nature that the Lord gives us, instead of the
sinful nature that we inherited from Adam



Only Baptise when you understand- as an adult

- Another wrong teaching
- True the baby has not sinned,
- But in the creed , we believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, the creed did not exempt babies even though they have not sinned
- **But it is the fallen human nature the baby has inherited, that needs salvation**

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- **So, many new theologies, and new ideas, that have caused confusion, divisions and sufferings**
 - **Let us go back to basics**
 - **The Church that is united around the Sacrament of the Holy Communion, that offers love and pastoral care to everyone around**
 - **Study, yes of course , but in the light of the Scriptures and the Fathers of the Church**

St Mary so close to the cross, so was St John



**This is what the Lord wants from us, not
wild theories in theology**

