

# Inquirer's Class - Lesson #6

## Conclusion

- Orthodoxy and other religions
- The Church is missionary by its very nature - a denial of this is a denial of the Church.

*"A Church without mission is a contradiction in terms."* Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

- We proclaim with boldness the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ - this unique message of the God-man "who for our sakes and for our salvation came down from heaven" and became man and who was crucified, buried and rose again.
- "We can say where the Church is, but we cannot say where it isn't."*
- We don't claim to know exactly what happens to those who do not believe in Christ, but we do proclaim that those who profess Christ in an Orthodox manner and enter the Church and continue in this life in Christ are in the process of salvation.
- When we speak of ecumenical dialog we do not accept a lowest common denominator approach nor do we accept the branch theory.
- Secularism is the enemy of true faith.

- Contemporary problems and challenges for Orthodoxy
- Living Tradition - changes to remain the same
- It constantly requires a creative engagement with a new set of circumstances - contextualization.
- Christ needs to be incarnated in new ways in new cultures while always maintaining Holy Tradition which, as we recall, is the proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We are always seeking that fine line between enculturation and syncretism.
- We want to avoid triumphalism and avoid extremes - the royal path.

*"Triumphalism is never appropriate and is always un-Christian."* -Fr. John Garvey

- North America - jurisdictional chaos after 1917
- The paradox - we are a Church united in faith and practice, but there is an institutional disorder present.
- We are not a diaspora - there is a local indigenous Orthodox Church on this continent.
- Administrative unity does not mean cultural uniformity.
- Practical matters - church order, catechism, daily prayers, community life, etc.

