



THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS

Life is full of idols; now we see both idols and idolaters everywhere. However, you will not see idols made of stone, gold and silver. Indeed, it would be strange to find such primitive idolatry in our enlightened age. But a subtle idolatry has spread over the face of the earth like a wave of mud. This idolatry manifests itself in many different ways, all of which are invariably sad and sorrowful for the Christian world.

Those who live only for God and with God are so rare nowadays! Nowadays can many sincerely repeat these great words of the great Apostle, “yet not I, but Christ liveth in me?” (Gal 2:20). Today God is not praised in the lives of Christians. Ask our contemporaries, how do they live, what do they live for? What is the most important thing in their lives? They will say it is family, work, social activities, business, pleasure, personal well-being. But will there be any who will say that the most important thing in their life is God, the Church, the salvation of their soul, eternal life? No, hardly anyone will recall all this, the one thing needful. Christ has been completely driven out of human life, although many do not actually persecute Him openly. In a way, people would be sad to abandon Christ completely, but they still do not love Him enough to reject all other gods for His sake. So they do all they can to retain all the worldly idols, to worship both Christ and Belial. They share their lives between many gods. The greatest part of their life is given over to worshipping all manner of idols in their hearts, and only the most insignificant part is devoted to the hasty and hurried worship of the true God. Imagine the big house of a busy person. There are many huge offices and studies, where the owner spends more or less whole

days. But somewhere, in a corner, there is a very small room with icons. Rarely, all too rarely, and hurriedly, the owner calls in, but immediately runs out, rushing away to his “business”. This is how the whole life of the contemporary Christian is organized. He wastes his time in futility. He is busy all day long, with no free time at all. Very rarely, once a week, once a month, or even once a year, he calls in at the house of God. But he has nothing to do there, so he hurries back to his “business”.

Hieromartyr Hilarion (Troitsky) (†1929)

Sunday, July 3

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy 9:30 A.M.

Commemoration of Hieromartyr Methodius, Bishop of Patara (†312), Holy Martyrs Inna, Pinna and Rimma (†1st-2nd century)

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Sunday, July 10

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy 9:30 A.M.

Commemoration of Righteous Joanna the Myrrh-bearer (†1st century), Venerable Sampson the Hospitable (†530) and uncovering (in 1998) of relics of Venerable Amvrosii of Optina (†1891)

ON CHASTITY AND PREMARITAL COHABITATION

By Priest Paul Gumerov

Part IV

Why is civil registration of marriage needed? We live in a state, and we are its citizens. Whether we like it or not, we must observe the laws of our country. Everyone has a birth certificate, a social security number, and many other identification documents. When a new person is born, his birth is registered by the respective legal branch, and a birth certificate is issued. This is an affidavit showing that a new citizen has been born, and he is to live according to the laws of his country. He has his rights, and will have his obligations. Marriage is also the birth of something new—a new ‘legal entity,’ a unified organism, a family. A family is not just our own affair—it is also a governed establishment. A family has its rights and duties; its interests must be defended, and its life is partially regulated by the laws of the land.

I often hear defenders of ‘common-law marriage’ talk about the civil marriage document with strong antipathy and even hatred, as an ‘empty formality.’ But for some odd reason, they do not hesitate to obtain other empty formalities, such as deeds of property title, stock certificates, or

signed checks. That means that they do not dread documentation itself, but rather the responsibility that marriage registration brings. If a person really loves, then the document is not a problem, and if it is a problem, that means there is no love. It's true: if you love someone, then there is no problem—you just go and register. But if you are not sure of your feelings, you will run from marriage as from fire.

Supporters of *free relationships* often like to cite that in ancient times, there were supposedly no registrations at all, and people lived as they liked. This is not true. Marriage has always existed, only legislative norms have differed. By the way, the presence of marriage is one factor that makes man different from an animal.

In Tsarist Russia, as still is in many other countries, for example, marriage was registered in the church, mosque, or synagogue; in the Roman Empire, a marriage agreement was signed in the presence of a witness; the ancient Jews also signed marriage documents; in some places, marriage was concluded simply before witnesses (in antiquity, a promise given in the presence of witnesses could be more binding than a written document), but no matter how it was done, the newlyweds witness before God, before each other, and before their country or community, that they are henceforth husband and wife, and live according to the laws established in the given society. The couple had the state as witness that they were no longer simply two individuals, but a family, and are obligated to bear responsibility for each other and for their offspring.

After concluding a marriage agreement, lawful wives and legitimate children also received their due class and property privileges. This is how a marriage differed from a sexual cohabitation. By the way, 'primitive promiscuity' or hetaerism, (sometimes written hetaerism, meaning informal sexual relations that supposedly existed among archaic tribes) is just as much a historical fabrication as matriarchy. Hetaerism is defined in Wikipedia as: "A term employed by 19th century anthropologists (such as Johann Jakob Bachofen) to indicate a *theoretical* (theoretical, because it has never existed) early state of human society characterized by the absence of the institution of marriage in any form... Sometimes known as 'primitive promiscuity'."

Of course, there has been much activity throughout history other than marriage, in some countries, outrageous depravity prevailed. In the Roman Empire, for example, concubinage—legalized extra-marital cohabitation—existed, but no one considered it marriage. Of course, there have also been varying forms of marriage, some of them absolutely unacceptable for Christians (like polygamy). But even in the case of legal polygamy, there were legal wives, whose status was quite different from that of a concubine or lover.

Besides the fact that 'common-law marriage' is a false and deceptive thing, only illusorily implicating the existence of a family, it also does not allow the partners to put their relationship in order. Sometimes a 'common law marriage' is called barren; firstly, because the cohabitants, as a rule, are afraid to have children. They can't make sense of their own relationship, so why add more problems, fuss, and responsibility? Secondly, 'common law marriage' cannot generate anything new; it is fruitless in the spiritual and even emotional sense. When people create a lawful family, they take a responsibility upon themselves. Entering into marriage, people make the decision to live with their spouse for the rest of their lives, to go through all their experiences together, to equally share both joy and sorrow. They no longer feel separate from their other half, and whether they like it or not, the spouses have to come to unity, learn to bear each other's burdens, build a relationship, work together, and—most importantly—to learn to love each other. Just as a person has parents, brothers, and sisters, and he has to learn to live with them and find mutual understanding with them or his family life will become intolerable, so it is in a marriage between a husband and wife.

To be continued

..... News From All The Ends Of The Earth

Dhaka, Bangladesh: A pilgrim woman was killed by two ‘sacred’ crocodiles at the Muslim shrine of Khan Jahan Ali last Sunday. Khan Jahan Ali shrine offers the pilgrims an opportunity to play with the pet ‘sacred’ crocodiles. Every day, hundreds of Muslims visit the site and pray for their wishes to come true; feeding meat to the crocodiles is part of the ritual. Three years ago another pilgrim met the same death at the Muslim shrine.

Stockholm, Sweden: A pre-school in Sweden has decided to stop distinguishing between boys and girls in an effort to obtain equality between the sexes from childhood. The *Egalia* preschool, in the Sodermalm district of Stockholm made the decision as a part of the national curriculum for Swedish preschools to stop children falling into gender stereotypes. Staff at the school has even changed the grammar by shedding masculine and feminine references from their speech, including the pronouns ‘he’ and ‘she’, *han* and *hon* in Swedish, and instead, they have made up a genderless *hen*. The option to implement the rules was underpinned by a theory that society gives boys an unfair edge. “Society expects girls to be girly, nice and pretty and boys to be manly, rough and outgoing,” Jenny Johnsson, a teacher said, presuming that the feminists and other liberals would like to see girls rough (not girly), nasty (not nice) and ugly (not pretty), while boys – effeminate (not manly), delicate (not rough) and timid (not outgoing). Thus, the goal of the liberal religion is to create a world where a normal family consisting of father, mother and children would be extinct, for what man would want to marry an ugly and bear-like woman, or what woman would want to create a family with an effeminate good-for-nothing wimp? Meanwhile, nearly all the children’s books of the preschool deal with homosexual couples, single parents or adopted children. There are no *Snow White*, *Cinderella* or other fairy tales – all of which are “full of traditional stereotypes”. Also, for some reason all the dolls in the preschool are black. *Egalia* places a special emphasis on fostering an environment tolerant of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Tel Aviv, Israel: A senior Israeli Rabbi Dov Lior was detained earlier this week for inciting to violence and racism. Lior was questioned by police following his endorsement of the book *Torat Hamelech* (King’s Torah), by Rabbi Yitzhak Shapira, which justifies the killing on non-Jews. Lior has called the accusations baseless, saying the book addresses the issue of killing of innocent non-Jews *only* during wartime. Meanwhile, Yaakov Katz, chairman of the National Union, threatened to take revenge against those responsible for the arrest. “We will get back at whoever is responsible for Rabbi Lior’s arrest. Netanyahu and those under his command will be remembered forever in disgrace for the arrest of this genius of Israel”. Dov Lior’s arrest caused wide protest among the traditionalist Jews who insist that the State of Israel should remain faithful to the Jewish religious teaching expressed in the Talmud, including the following: tractate *Baba Mezia* 114b states: “The Jews are called human beings, but non-Jews are not humans. They are beasts.” *Jalkut Rubeni gadol* 12b: “The souls of non-Jews come from diverse spirits (i.e. from demons) and are called pigs.” *Schene luchoth haberuth* 250b: “Although the non-Jew has the same body structure as the Jew, they compare with the Jew as a monkey to a human.”

Jakarta, Indonesia: After Malaysia, Indonesia has opened its chapter of the Obedient Wives Club, an organization in which women are completely subject to their husbands. Critics point out that the foundation of the club is only a pretext to legitimize polygamy in the country, outlawed by former President Suharto, in power from 1967 to 1998. The Club claims about 300 women have already joined. The purpose is to teach Indonesian women how to be ‘good wives’ in the eyes of the family and husband and at the same time reinforce the principles of the Islamic faith in wives. For Mrs. Puspita, head of the Club, the real aim is to inculcate in women the desire to accept polygamy, if the case is decided by the husband. In 2009 similar tendencies gave birth to the Polygamy Club, founded by conservative Islamic group with ties to such groups in Thailand, Singapore and other countries.

Moscow, Russia: People of the town of Naro-Fominsk in the Moscow region have raised protests against the construction of a mosque in the town, and have asked Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to intervene. “Foundations have been laid for a mosque in the private housing area,” the protesters said in an open letter to Medvedev. The unfinished building “is being used as a mosque already. Prayer services, religious rites and majlises are being held, and a children’s school has opened. On Muslim holidays, tremendous numbers of people gather at this address, and animal sacrifices are made. People are always coming and going. We are afraid to go out both in the daytime and in the evening, much less do we want to take our children out for a walk. The area next to the construction site “has become cluttered and is being used as a dump, which blocks passage for local residents”.

Belgrade, Serbia: Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Irinej said Tuesday in Gracanica, central Kosovo, that Kosovo and Metohija is a blessed country in which there is room for all people of good will, and pointed out that greatest possible effort should be made so that it remains a part of Serbia, as it has always been throughout history. “Today, when so many hands are stretched towards Kosovo, we cannot and will never accept that Kosovo be snatched away from us. This is a holy Serbian land soaked with blood and cemented with the bones of holy martyrs. The price paid with blood is the highest price one can pay. That is the price which was paid for Kosovo,” Patriarch Irinej said addressing the believers after the Divine Liturgy at the Gracanica Monastery held on the occasion of Vidovdan. Two people suffered light injuries when a group of stone-throwing Kosovo Albanians attacked buses carrying Serbs returning from the celebration.



Kosovo Battle

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. June bulletin covers' sponsor is Jenny Yacko — health of family and friends.
2. Our preparations of the Lake Front Fest are on the way. We have already received some generous donations, brats were purchased and cases of pop are starting to arrive. Among other things pertaining to our participation in the Lake Front Fest, we are looking for sponsors who would finance printing of the raffle tickets.
3. Our first in-church bake sale was very successful. We would like to thank all the contributors and all those who purchased the products. Next such sale is scheduled for July 24th. Plan to participate.