

Wisdom of Saint Philaret of Moscow

1. The Church of the true God with its sacred objects, rituals and Sacraments is not a human invention but God's own institution.
2. The management of God's churches and the worship in them must not depend on human deliberation. It must be grounded in the "rules and laws of priestly office", laid by the "apostles vested in the Holy Spirit, strong in actions and in words".
3. God's wisdom has deemed the establishment of the holy temples not only a useful but also a necessary tool in the salvation of men, because God's wisdom never does anything excessive and what is not useful.
4. That is why every man who wants to be saved must diligently attend God's temples with attention; participate in prayers and praises to the best of his abilities; observe and follow the word of God and the doctrine of life; and sanctify himself with church sacraments, in accordance with the rules and the laws laid out and passed on to us by the divinely inspired apostles and wise Church Fathers.



Wisdom of Saint John of Kronstadt

The Church contains all our sweet hopes and aspirations, our peace, our joy, along with our purification and sanctification. All that is the most exalted, the most precious, the holiest and the wisest can be found only in the Church: The Church is the earthly heaven.

The Church engages the entire human being and teaches him in his entirety with the worship: She engages his eyes, ears, smell, touch, taste, imagination, feelings, reason and will — thanks to the beauty of the Icons and the temple as a whole; bells; singing; censing; kissing of the Gospel, the cross and holy Icons; Prosphora; singing and recitation of the Scriptures.

What will happen to a man who falls from a ship into the sea and sees a rope or a boat sent to his rescue but does not grab at the rope or the boat and even pushes them away? He will perish in the abyss. Such are the Christians who have a rope of the Holy Scripture and all Sacraments, including the greatest of them all — the Sacrament of the Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ — to rescue them from eternal death. Whosoever rejects this rope, he will surely die — and rightfully so, for his pride, insanity, lack of wisdom, disgusting passions and whims.

