

Abstract

The thesis deals with the comparison attitudes of two Eastern Christian traditions – Orthodox and Coptic to 4th ecumenical council, which held in 451 in Chalcedon. The Monophysite, or Non-Chalcedonian, Coptic Orthodox Church regards it as return to the heterodox teaching called Nestorianism whilst Eastern Orthodox Church this council considers in accordance with the Orthodox doctrine. For Orthodox Christians Chalcedon represents the breakthrough for a refinement of the Christology, concretely in the doctrine about two natures – divine and human – in single person of Christ which the Copts regard as return to Nestorian heresy which due to its dualism interfered the integrity of the person of Christ. The thesis puts forward the insight into the Council of Chalcedon from both perspectives objectively. The thesis is based on authors which represent Orthodox and Coptic traditions but also on these who researched this issue solely from a historical-theological point of view. I have noted reasons – theological and non-theological – why the Copts reject to accept conclusions of this ecumenical council to this day, among other things. I have tried to point out that Monophysitism, or Miaphysitism – whose way the Copts follow – is not only a heretical teaching from the Orthodox theological point of view but it includes elements of Nationalism. These nations who were living in parts of the Eastern Roman Empires defined against Hellenism which was growing strong in the Eastern Orthodox Church at that time. Among these nations belong the Copts. The Copts were the most zealous antagonists of the doctrine which was admitted in Chalcedon, among them ethno-separatist tendencies were loudest. I do not neglect events which were preceding this council, its process, its dogmatical and canonical sense and immediate impacts which it caused. The relationship between the Eastern Orthodox Church and Coptic Orthodox Church is considered and their mutual dialogue. The Christology of Saint Cyril of Alexandria is introduced from both perspectives.