EASTERN ORTHODOX THEOLOGY
VERSUS

- **SIN:** A spiritual disease acquired by Man's free-will & Satan's enticement. Transgression. Refusal of God's will. Spiritual suicide.
- **VICTIM HURT BY SIN:** Man & Creation, separated from God.
- **RESULTS: Man died.** Man, by sin, rejects Life & chooses Eternal Death (Hell) by his free-will. [James 1:15, Wisdom of Solomon3 1:12]
- **GOD'S REACTION:** Demands abolition of Death by Life. His anger and vengeance are against the Devil and Death, not Man. God desires to recreate Man and Creation. [*Physical death =A Divinely ordained mercy*]
- **OUR DEBT TO GOD:** Man's life, which Man wasted by his free-will. Christ repays it IN us and TO us, the only party who "needs" this life.
- **DIVINE JUSTICE:** Demands & is satisfied by: the better Life of Man.
- **DEATH WAS GOD'S "JUDGEMENT":** Not a "sentence" but a **revelation** of His "Diagnosis and Opinion" of Man's dead condition; it is **not** God's Economy & Planning for Man: "**I** have chosen for myself the judgement of death, [but] **You** changed my [self-inflicted] punishment into salvation." **The Giver of Life is not the giver of Eternal Death.**
- **REDEMPTION & ATONEMENT (forgiveness)** by the blood of the sacrifice = a gift of "PURIFICATION" from God to Man, by sprinkling the "BLOOD = NEW LIFE". It is forgiveness of sin by remission of its Death by a "**Life Transfusion,**" to replace the uncleanness of Death. Redemption was achieved by the "Incarnation, Death and Resurrection" of Christ, as a "**one act**" and work of the Holy Trinity: The Father who willed it, the Son who performed it and the Holy Spirit who delivers what Christ has achieved in His humanity, into our humanity.
- **THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST** are the "**confirmation and proof**" that Man's nature, in Christ, has been **redeemed** from Death to Life **by this UNION** of the Divine and Human Natures in Christ: "And the **Death** which entered the world by the envy of the Devil was **destroyed by** the **Incarnation** of Your Son." (Liturgy) "By death He conquered Death" **but was not punished by Death**. The Holy Spirit takes what is Christ's and gives it to us (Jn 16:14) so when He is revealed we would be like (not equal to) Him, for we shall see Him as He is (1Jn 3:2) and become partakers of the Divine Nature (2Pt 1:4).

WESTERN MEDIEVAL THEOLOGY

- **SIN:** An insult to God's Holiness, Honour and Justice. Therefore sin was described as "infinitely great" as God. [=Deification of evil]
- **VICTIM HURT BY SIN**: essentially, God and His attributes.
- **RESULTS:** God, insulted and angry. By His own Economy and justice condemns Man to Eternal Death to punish him.
- **GOD'S REACTION:** Demands the Death of Man to satisfy His Justice and Holiness. His anger and vengeance are against Man or his Substitute.
- **OUR DEBT TO GOD:** Man's life, or that of a Substitute, must be sacrificed to repay the infinite debt to the insulted Divine Justice.
- **DIVINE JUSTICE:** Demands and is satisfied by the bloodshed of the sacrifice of the Substitute. Without bloodshed there is no forgiveness.
- **DEATH WAS GOD'S "JUDGEMENT":** God willed the sentence of Eternal Death by His own Economy and for the fulfilment of His Justice. God is accordingly the "**CAUSE**" of Eternal Death. [This is contrary to: **"God did not invent Death** … ungodly people have brought Death on themselves." (Wisdom of Solomon 1:12, and James 1:15)]
- **REDEMPTION & ATONEMENT** by the blood of the sacrifice = a life repaid to God instead of the life of the sinner; a punishment instead of a punishment, to satisfy the insulted Divine Justice and quench the Divine Anger. [What then is the meaning of "to atone for the altar, sanctuary & tabernacle" (Lev 16:33), which are non-living objects, if atonement is an act of punishment and not an act of PURIFICATION? Hebrews 9 &10 confirm that Atonement is by the "PURIFICATION" effect of the blood (grants Life and sanctifies) not essentially by the Death of the sacrifice]
- **THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST:** Accordingly, Redemption was realised **only** by Christ's Death on the cross. The Incarnation and Resurrection are not Redemptive. The Sacraments also become mere symbols and not a redeeming true grace transferring what has been achieved in Christ's Humanity to us, by the Holy Spirit. In this legalistic interpretation, the Father punishes the Son, the Holy Spirit

is almost absent and the recreation of Man is not God's concern. As said: "This teaching redeems God's Justice not Man's nature."