

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Bruno II
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, January 17, 2016*

YEAR C - SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Greetings and welcome brethren to this Second Sunday after the Epiphany. Our readings today raise some interesting questions when we stop and look at them closely. In First Corinthians we see referenced "different kinds of ministries, but the same Lord, and there are different kinds of operations, but the same God working all things in all." What are these different ministries, and why are they mentioned separately from the different operations? This separation may not be completely obvious until you notice that one is connected with the Lord, and the other with God. Let's examine this passage closely and interpret it as a Gnostic would in relation to the world today.

Now we cannot just break this passage down into its constituent parts and then individually define them. It is their order and relationship which provide definition.

Let us begin in the middle and work our way out. The terms "Lord," and "God," when placed together like this is often referring to the demiurge, and God the Father, respectively. We now notice that the different ministries are attributed to the demiurge while the different operations are connected to God the Father. We must not make the mistake here of thinking that the different ministries only refer to the different sects of forms of Christianity. That is not exactly wrong, but I believe it is incomplete. The reason for this is because of that following word: operations. Operations are an internal working within a particular ministry or Tradition, such as the Sacraments of the Church.

So what exactly am I saying here? The different traditions within the world: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism to mention the three main branches, are demiurge-oriented in their mainstream, exoteric forms. They preach salvation under a guise of formulated prayer and discipline, but truthfully they are shallow in substance and discipline is severely lacking. They produce only a temporary comfort to their adherents. However, within those Traditions you find their esoteric forms. These are always more mystical and revelatory in nature, providing their members with a closer and more direct relationship to God. The Sacraments, theurgical prayers, the inherent mysticism of these operative forms of the mainstream traditions, normally recognize as well the validity of their esoteric counterparts within the other religions of the world.

To sum it up, we see here a profound and fundamental truth of Gnosticism, as well as the other liberal, universal traditions. That truthfully, "there are different kinds of ministries, but the same Lord, and there are different kinds of operations, but the same God working all things in all."