

Actually, it should be: why am I still Orthodox? As a convert since 2005 my husband Jim and I have taken roost under the wing of Orthodoxy. It is as close to the undiluted “real thing” as we can get. Although there have been small changes in the Church in the past 2000 years She has retained all the rich wonder of the past. We feel safe in the knowledge that the theology has been “thought through” by the early church fathers, apostles, and the Disciples of Christ. The Church doesn’t need our help in that department. It’s not pop culture, but words and teachings from those who knew Christ on Earth. Orthodoxy is not about the self, or what the Church can do for you. It is a very personal relationship with the undivided Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, not just one of the three. Oh yes, and Mary the mother of God, is respected and loved for her sacrifice and example to us all. She is not worshipped but glorified as she should be.

Orthodoxy is not a last stop or the only “other” alternative. It is not a consolation prize. It is not a place to hide from the pop world. It is a place virtually kept a secret today. You don’t go looking for it, but you can stumble across it. Once you cross the threshold of the Church, you enter into another world. You may like or leave it depending upon where your heart is, or where your “self” is.

We talk about old-fashioned things here; in fact, we talk about the past as if it were happening today, which it is. We believe that God died for our “sins” not just for our “mistakes.” We are forgiven all of our sins, not just the ones we let go. We are not afraid to call ourselves the first among sinners. Our music is not hip and often not in tune, but we get the message across. Our hymns are a prayer to God, no matter how off-key, meant for His ears not ours alone.

Why am I still Orthodox? I have found a home after a long journey of self-discovery and study of the Bible. I have found a church without theological contradiction or gimmicks; a place of peace, of miracles, and hosts of angels. I can finally rest from my journey here, which is why I stay.