

## **The Democratic Political Theology of Metropolitan John of Pergamon (Zizioulas)**

### **Abstract**

The Metropolitan of Pergamon John (Zizioulas) was reluctant to formulate a full-blown Political Theology, since he viewed politics as the domain of coercion and violence, thus distinguishing it from the Church as the place of freedom and no-violent love. However, his ecclesiological vision that the Eucharist constitutes an anticipation of the future state of the whole of humanity in the eschaton does have political consequences, since the Church can be considered as an ‘eschatological city’ that could inspire the secular political society. The ecclesial vision that humanity could be a vision of the Trinity, that is of universal love between free persons, can be a fundamental inspiration for politics, even if it cannot be fully realized in political life. It could function as a Kantian horizon of meaning that cannot be fully attained but can however be the motivation for political action. The paper will observe some basic principles of the ecclesiology of John Zizioulas, such as inclusiveness as the fundamental ecclesiological category, the Aristotelian connection between the universal and the particular and the role of the Holy Spirit in human history. It will then examine their significance for the articulation of a Political Theology of inclusiveness raising the question of the relation between freedom and violence in political life.

Dionysios Skliris