

Remembering the Other: The Reception of John Zizioulas and the Forgotten Center of His Thought

Several formulas of Metropolitan John Zizioulas have long since become common coin in Orthodox theology and church life: the bishop "in the place of Christ", the priority of ontology over ethics, eschatology as the key to theology. This paper asks what the Church has actually made of them. Too often they have been reduced to caricatures: a theological cover for episcopal authoritarianism, indifference toward the concrete neighbour, a liturgism closed off from history. Drawing on *Remembering the Future* and his sermons, I will argue that these readings contradict Zizioulas himself, even if some of his own formulations may, at first sight, seem to lend them support. The key lies in the forgotten center of his thought, the theology of the person set out in *From Mask to Person*: the other constitutes my identity, and the priority of ontology is grounded in love. Finally, I will point to two perspectives in which this theology remains urgent: person and machine in the age of artificial intelligence, and primacy understood as a primacy of responsibility.

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