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*Theosis in the Theology of Metropolitan John D. Zizioulas
and Its Anthropological Implications*

Within the theological renewal of twentieth-century Eastern Orthodoxy, deification (*theosis*) came to occupy a central position, particularly through the rediscovery of mystical theology and the Palamite distinction between divine essence and energies. Metropolitan John D. Zizioulas, however, developed a distinctive understanding of deification, shaped by his emphasis on personhood, Eucharistic communion, and eschatology. Although *theosis* rarely appears as an independent topic in his writings, it remains closely related to the central concerns of his theological synthesis. This paper examines how Zizioulas approaches deification primarily in terms of hypostatic communion rather than participation in the divine energies. Drawing especially on Maximus the Confessor, he understands *theosis* as *Christopoiesis* (Christification) and *hyothesia* (filial adoption): incorporation into Christ and participation, through the Holy Spirit, in the Son's relationship with the Father. Deification is thus understood not as an individual spiritual achievement or merely as participation in divine attributes, but as an ecclesial event of communion. The above theological understanding of *theosis* involves crucial theological and anthropological implications that our paper intends to develop and critically address.