

3- The Resurrection and Globalization

One of the important contemporary issues is **globalization**, a fact that we are all aware of and that we cannot ignore; in fact we have to interact with it in the right way.

What is globalization? What are its challenges? What are its current developments and what is its direct impact on us? What is the role of Christ of the resurrection in our interaction with and reaction to globalization?

What is globalization?

The word 'globalization' is derived from the word 'global' or 'globe', meaning the earth which has become one village with every part impacting the other. All barriers have disappeared because of the revolution in information and communication, for through television and the internet, the world has become interconnected. If an event occurs at the far corners of the earth, other parts of the world are affected because of the speed at which news is propagated and because of its unprecedented flow. When an incident occurs in a village, news is quickly spread to the rest of the world and many all over the world react to this news.

That is why we often hear new expressions such as :

- 1 **The communications revolution** : television broadcasting via satellite to all areas of the world.
- 1 **The information revolution** : the World Wide Web, or the Internet, provides information to every individual on the face of the earth.
- 1 **Open skies** : It is no longer possible to conceal facts or information from any nation; it is virtually impossible to impose censorship on the broadcasts of satellites and networks.

- 1 **Global culture** : that is, one culture and one lifestyle are dominant because of these networks; this includes clothes, daily concerns and manners.
- 1 **World citizenship** : The future generations that will be influenced by this revolution will grow up sharing one culture and the same information. The young people in different places will all resemble each other in lifestyle, ways of thinking, and in daily interactions.

The Challenges of Globalization:

Globalization presents significant challenges for our lives and those of our future generations. Globalization is a fact that we cannot ignore or deny, but we can interact with it wisely with the many tools we have at our disposal and which we can hold on to firmly. For example, we have our Christian faith, our orthodox doctrine, our social values, and our patriotism. All these help us to meet the challenges of globalization astutely.

What are these challenges we are confronted with?

1- Challenge to faith:

With the advent of the communications revolution, it is now possible to read a great deal about Christianity, but it also possible to access and interact with many sites that are opposed to Christianity. All the **religions** are spread out before us on the screen, and through the Internet we are exposed to Christian heresies such as **the Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Mormons**, as well as others who claim to be Christians but whose doctrines are far removed from Christianity. All this is **available** on the Internet and the children of Christ must hold firmly to their Christ and their Christianity so that they are unaffected by these external currents.

2- Doctrinal Challenges:

This consists of the attempts made by sects other than Orthodox to ensnare our Orthodox youth, which is possible because of the information and communication revolution. Our youth need to learn the tenets of Orthodoxy, its sound teachings, and the evangelical basis of its doctrines so that they can continue to lead its life with its spirituality, and so that they can respond to any other thought, belief, or teaching which is addressed to them.

3- Spiritual Challenges:

It is a well-known fact that television, either through regular or encoded programs, offers most provocative and immoral programs. This is also the case with some Internet sites, cheap magazines, and video films. We need to be spiritually filled so that we can withstand and overcome these sensual temptations, daily occasions of sin, and the endeavors of the devil to lure us into committing various sins.

4- Cultural Challenges:

The Internet and the information and communication revolution are trying to impose a “**global culture**” on us, regardless of whether it is in conflict with our religion, traditions, the Egyptian spirit, or what we value and practice. A great effort is required in reading and learning, so that we can distinguish right from wrong and choose what is good and constructive while rejecting what is corrupt and destructive.

5- Social Challenges:

The information revolution brings to us political disturbances and ethnic and religious conflicts from various parts of the world. These events could divide us within one nation if we are not alert to this danger and to its harmful consequences. We thus need to hold firmly to love and national unity. These networks could bring to us immoral social concepts such as pre-marital sex, single motherhood, group marriages, deviant sex, and other perversions that can destroy the lives of our offspring.

Christ of the Resurrection and Globalization :

There is no doubt that our living Christ who rose from the dead and who crushed it with His own death is our real support when we cope intelligently with globalization and its impact because:

6- The risen Christ roots us in His Person :

He is alive and in our midst, in our hearts and on the altar. Whenever we pray, He listens to us and whenever we read the Holy Bible, we listen to Him. Whenever we partake of Holy Communion, He dwells in us and we in Him. We do not follow a religious leader who propagated a certain message and died, but rather we have a leader who lives within the hearts of those who love Him, not only as feelings, thoughts, or principles, but as a living Presence.

The risen Christ left the tomb forever to dwell within the hearts of those who love Him. Our Christ is living and working, a powerful and victorious Savior who lives in our depths, guiding us, comforting us, supporting us in our weakness, directing our footsteps, and granting us victory over all temptations of the world and the power of Satan. Of Him, it is written: “*And if Christ is in you, the body is dead.*” (Rom. 8:10) “*And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.*” (Rom. 16:20) “*I have overcome the world.*” (Jn. 16:33) We thus overcome the flesh, the world, and the devil through Him and are rooted in our spirituality and victorious over sin.

7- The risen Christ roots us in the Christian faith:

We do not simply hold certain thoughts and beliefs, but we have faith in a living Person who rose and did not die and will never die. The Christ of the resurrection is a truth that is fixed in our daily experience as a victorious and loving God who supports us and gives us victory over all temptation and weakness. We experience Him in all our daily problems and find that He comes to our help “**on the clouds**”. We feel

that He lives in us, for *“For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life appears, you also will appear with him in glory.” (Col. 3:3)*

The strongest evidence of the divinity for the Lord Jesus is that He lives in us, is alive forevermore and grants us life. *“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” (Jn. 1:4)* That is, His life in us gives us insight so that we comprehend His divinity and enjoy His everlasting salvation.

8- The risen Christ roots us in the Orthodox faith:

The word **Orthodoxy** means ‘**the straight path in glorifying God,**’ for simply put, Orthodoxy is original Christianity in its simplicity and profoundness. The whole church followed one straight path before the schism at Calcedonia. Orthodoxy kept to the same straight path without addition or subtraction, following the true teaching recorded in the writings of the fathers before the schism. If we want to be able to tell right from wrong, we need to go back to the roots, to Christ of the resurrection, Christ of the apostles, Christ of the apostolic fathers, Christ of the era before the schism, and Christ of the straight path.

9- The risen Christ roots us in love :

The love of God is poured into our hearts, so that we love each other *“fervently with a pure heart.” (1Pet. 1:22)* We love all our compatriots and, in fact, there is place in our hearts for the love of all humanity regardless of religion, race, or culture. Love reigns supreme and spreads, bringing discord to an end. No one can separate us or tear apart our unity, for we hold onto the motto of the living Christ, *“through love serve one another.” (Gal. 5:13)* *“Always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all;” (1Thess. 5:15)*

“love one another;” (1Pet. 1:22) *“live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.” (2Cor. 13:11)*

Therefore, through the power of Christ of the Resurrection, we can meet all the challenges of globalization and the motto of our victory is *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” (Pr. 14:34)*