

Summary

Subject matter: The phenomenon of the religious syncretism in Orthodoxy on the example of the Russian Orthodox Church.

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Topicality of the research is determined by the need for the interpretation of the spiritual culture of the Slavonic people due to the fact that at present after the hard atheistic time, of the synodal period and persecutions of orthodoxy, in Russia and the society the religious illiteracy is becoming fully established which existed long before the USSR. Because of this the issues connected with the syncretization of pre-Christian cults and Christianity acquire special topicality. Besides, this topic is frequently discussed in the scientific works of scholars (historians) and theologians. In the modern world integration processes are under way, the representatives of different cultures and religions are building up complicated interrelationships with one another, thanks to which the trust and more complicated cultural and theological processes are becoming not only possible but even more interesting to study.

Objective of the research is a full study of such a phenomenon as religious syncretism in Orthodoxy and the Russian Orthodox Church is taken as an example.

Tasks:

- to determine the notion of religious syncretism;
- to examine the issue of the influence of pagan tradition on the formation of religious syncretism in Russia from the historical point of view;
- to study the religious everyday-life syncretism on the consciousness of the Orthodox population of Russia;
- to identify the degree of the influence of religious syncretism on the formation of Orthodox culture and social ideology;
- to examine religious syncretism as a factor of the formation of the activity-based and target-based orientations of the Orthodox population;

- to suggest the forms and prospects of further influence of religious syncretism on the development of the Orthodox community in modern Russia.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research: The materials can be used to prepare information material of the syncretism of the cults in Russia, also to develop the appropriate course of lectures within the framework of the History of the Russian Orthodox Church. The concrete results obtained in this paper can be used in the historical and theology studies research. The main theoretical concepts and conclusions can also be used in the academic processes when delivering specialist courses in the history of the Russian Orthodox Church as a methodological material for teaching theology in higher education establishments, in summer schools and in the development of specialist courses, lectures and seminars in history. The study of this problem in the future will also enable one to classify accurately new religious formations.

Result of the research was the development of recommendations for the prevention of religious fundamentalism in the society. So, it is expedient:

Firstly, to pay attention of the representatives of the analytical centres, political and social institutions to the conflict potential character of religious syncretism and rebirth of pagan traditions on orthodoxy at the modern stage;

Secondly, as religious syncretic beliefs breed radical and extremist processes in the society it is necessary to work out methods of prevention of destructive influence of this phenomenon;

Thirdly, the solution of the problems of social tension and confessional conflicts being the result of the processes of religious syncretism require the involvement of both the representatives of the state and the representatives of the religious confessions of the Russian Federation through building a dialog of religious nature and strengthening state-confessional relations;

Fourthly, to prevent from and regulate the activities of radically-disposed organizations aiming to revive pagan views it is necessary to develop the institute

of mediation and also to conduct analytical work with Russia's orthodox population.