

Summary

Subject matter: The occult sects in Russia: directions, doctrines and practices.

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Topicality of the research: The presented degree thesis is based on the sources and documents related to the fact how the occult sects, practicing in Russia, by using the doctrines and practices characteristic of them, influence the society as a whole and an individual person in particular, to find out the result of this influence and provide the analysis of this phenomenon.

Objective of the research: to research the attitude of the Russian Orthodox church to the occult sects in the Russian Federation in the form of the systematic analysis.

Tasks:

- to highlight the causes of the origin of the occult sects, to keep track of their historical development;
- to identify the main stages of the development of the occult sects in the Russian Federation;
- to examine the specificity of the orthodox position regarding the occult sects;
- to detect the prerequisites and forms of the manifestation of the occult sects in the Russian Orthodox Church.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The type of the degree thesis determined the need for the interdisciplinary approach and complex study of the problem. The basis of the research was formed by the principle of the analytical study of the sources, making their logic and content more precise, and

also by the methods of the comparative-historical and typological analysis. This enabled us to examine the origin of the occult sects in the orthodox church, specifically in the Russian Orthodox Church, in the context of the political and social changes that have taken place in the Russian and world history, and also in the connection with the history of other Christian confessions.

Results of the research: Our research showed that today the problem of the unity of all Christian denominations for the Russian Orthodox Church is directly connected with the problem of the preservation of the purity of the Orthodox faith. And, despite the tendency for globalization, it is doubtful whether we are moving towards the creation of some single religion, at least in the immediate future. The future is in building the open dialog between different religions, cultures and traditions.

Recommendations: As this degree thesis is chiefly theoretical, the materials of the research can be used in the preparation of a course of lectures on The New Religious Movements in the Russian Federation. The concrete results obtained in this work can be used in the philosophy and religion studies. The main theoretical principles and findings of the research can be also used in the academic process while delivering special courses in the New Religious Movements, as a methodological material for teaching sect studies, and also for devising special courses, lectures and seminars in philosophy.