

## Super-Orthodoxy and Social Media

We live in an age in which rebellion is exalted. Many Orthodox Christians fetishize monasticism, or fantasize about a Christian monarchy—two institutions rooted in hierarchy and obedience—while simultaneously admiring a gallery of rogues: priests, monks, nuns, and laypersons who attack the canonical leadership of the Church. Many speak of the canons in an ambiguous sense while ignoring the actual canons that forbid us from denouncing or separating ourselves from a bishop unless he has been formally tried (see Constantinople 861).

In theory, we acknowledge the necessity of obedience; but in reality, we are proud, arrogant, self-willed, and self-righteous. If we are to embody the humility of the Chief Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ, we must first learn to be obedient to the shepherds He has appointed here on earth.

For these reasons, let's get off "toxic" social media: Those toxic hyper-Orthodox, very Ortho-political chat forums and so-called news-sites on social media. It inflates our pride and ego. It plays on our passions (anger, envy, despondency...). We think we have a platform where we can put forth our views and opinions and think that people are actually paying attention or even caring about what we have to say. In reality, they do not care about us and ignore us. We are therefore just talking passed each other. It has been revealed that social media is deliberately designed to do this to us: To anger us, to sadden us, to grieve us, to outrage us, to make us anxious and so on. It's a temptation. And all this why? To keep our attention and focus. In other words: to distract us. Distract us from what? From what is really important in life, "for all things good and beneficial for our salvation."

Beware especially of the so-called orthocelebs. They go by many names as monks, nuns, clergy of all ranks, lay-people, and so-called theologians. These celebridox or orthocelebs or Orthodox e-celebs are also what has been termed by such people as Fr Seraphim Rose as "crazy converts." The Church Fathers called them "dabblers" (i.e., prideful Christians who were selective in their theology, and therefore inaccurate). Rather than approach the faith with humility as basic beginners, these converts dive into the shallow end of an empty pool just because they are now baptised and think they know everything about Orthodoxy now. The baptismal waters are still wet behind their ears. Typical of the 'Coca Cola Generation and of the crazy convert,' as Fr Seraphim Rose says. These crazy convert celebridox are not interested in you or your well-being or your spiritual welfare or your salvation. If they were interested and truly cared, then why are they clickbaiters? Why are they interested in your clicks and having your eyeballs on their videos or podcasts or social media posts...etc. They are not promoting Orthodoxy. Just their own agenda. Agendas that are inconsistent with Orthodox Christianity. They just want your clicks, your money and your attention. Perhaps they are even peddling the agenda of worldly powers, acting as the soft-power influencers of these powers.

Get off your screens and devices. Instead of being hypnotised and brainwashed by these celebridox, spend time with your kids. Pray with them. Go to church with them. Sit down with them and draw pictures and color-in with them. Take a soccer ball and go to a park. Husbands love your wives. Wives love your husbands. Young men and women read a spiritual book for a change and go for a walk with a prayer rope without

sticking headphones and buds in your ears to listen to rubbish passed off as Orthodox piety.

Beware your toxic obsession and pre-occupation with social media and chat forums isn't deceiving you.