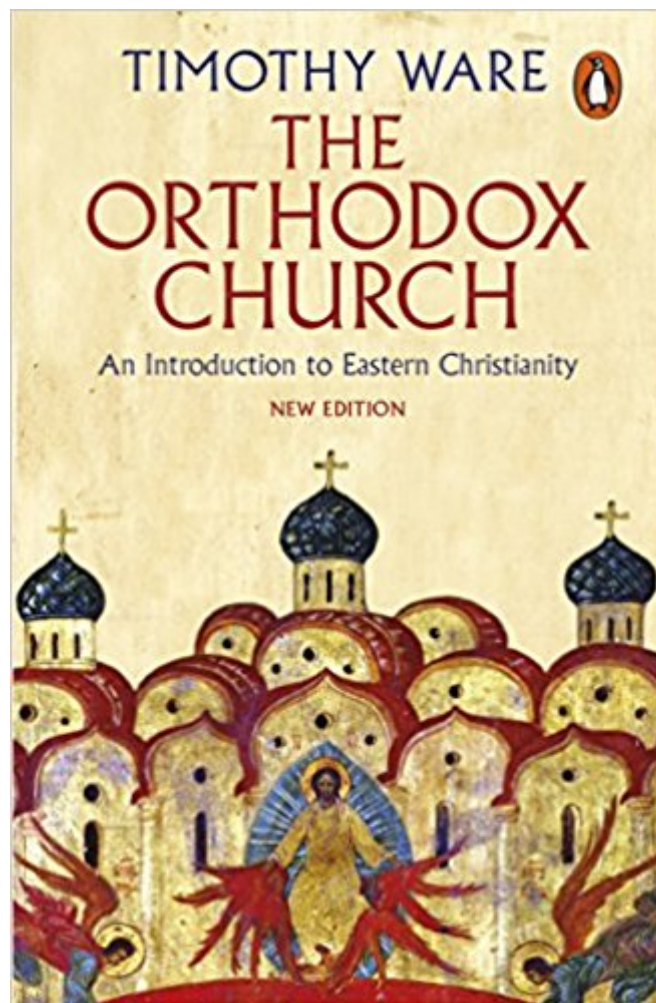




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# The Orthodox Church: An Introduction To Eastern Christianity



## Synopsis

The readable, deeply authoritative and bestselling book on the Orthodox Church, in a fully updated and revised Third Edition. 'Orthodoxy claims to be universal . . .' Since its first publication fifty years ago, Timothy Ware's book has become established throughout the English-speaking world as the standard introduction to the Orthodox Church. Orthodoxy continues to be a subject of enormous interest among western Christians, and the author believes that an understanding of its standpoint is necessary before the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches can be reunited. In this revised and updated edition he explains the Orthodox views on such widely ranging matters as Ecumenical Councils, Sacraments, Free Will, Purgatory, the Papacy and the relation between the different Orthodox Churches.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

TIMOTHY WARE, His Excellency the Most Reverend Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, was Spalding Lecturer of Eastern Orthodox Studies at Oxford University until his retirement in 2001.

I won't lie. I read this book as a requirement for joining the Greek Orthodox Church, which itself was a requirement for marrying my then-fiance in her childhood church. I appreciated it, because it wasn't necessary to be religious to get something out of the history, much of which I was shamefully ignorant of.

A good historical primer, recommended by our local pastor. The pastor read an earlier edition at seminary, and recalled that there was good background for a convert like me. I suspect some of the numbers from the first chapter are dated, but the picture painted throughout the book is of a vibrant faith. Orthodox Christianity is reflected here as steeped in tradition, with very powerful theology behind the tradition.

I purchased this book to brush up on my history of the church and the early history. I must say I am extremely impressed with how comprehensive this book is for a paperback. Timothy Ware (AKA Kallistos) has always done an incredible job of capturing the spirituality and holiness of the Eastern Orthodox Church in English.

I used this as a text for university Russian Culture course for a quarter century, and thirteen years after retirement I had to order the book a fourth time, having loaned it out to three other American Episcopalians who neglected to return it. I only hope they keep consulting it, as I do. It's first-rate: beautifully written and organized, equally good for theology and cultural history. I have never read theology so lucidly and impartially explained. I reread it with undiminished pleasure.

this is difficult read. If you really want to know the history of the Christian faith this book goes back to 57AD

As a Roman Catholic this is a great book to help become familiar with the Orthodox Church and their unique history. It outlines the difference of opinion between east and west succinctly and also shows that many of the issues between the two Churches are not irreconcilable.

It only took me 4 years to finish this. It's thorough, often extremely interesting, sometimes tediously detailed. Mostly the history of the church, ends with a very interesting section on the teachings, doctrine and theology of the church, and a final section on its relationship with other churches

Great introduction to Orthodox Christianity, from ancient origin to present day, providing a detailed historical and theological overview. The author's language is not overly technical, and he takes pains to make clear not only what are often dismissed as obscure differences between the theologies of the Christian East and the Christian West, but points out why these differences are significant. I, who am not Orthodox, feel this book has drawn me into deeper precincts of Christianity

than any but a handful of the Western Christian classics have. The author, Timothy Ware, wrote a companion volume called *The Orthodox Way*, which, from a devotional and even theological perspective, I found to be still more enriching. Both books are valuable.

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