

CONCERNING HONOR FOR THE SAINTS

—by Saint Nektarios—

The Christian Orthodox Church honors the saints not as gods, but as faithful servants, as holy persons, as friends of God. The Orthodox Church presents the efforts undertaken by the saints for the glory of God and the works they carried out through the Grace of God. The Church honors the memory of the saints with annual memorial services, with festive holidays, and by erecting chapels dedicated in their name. By honoring the saints in such a manner, the Church is actually directing this honor to the Most High and Great God, Who was pleased with their earthly life. This is how honor for the saints must be understood.

Concerning the verse: “there is one Mediator between God and men”

Truly, there is only one mediator before God the Father: that being the Son. **“For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” (1Tim. 2:5).** Before the Son, however, all the saints who surround Him act as mediators. This is why whenever we direct our petitions to the Son, we call upon the intercessions of the Mother of God and all the saints, and we set forth the saints as mediators before our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. However, whenever we direct our petitions to God the Father, we only set forth the Son as an intercessor and mediator.