

**Dr. Papanikolaou- Lesson 18**

**How can I relate to the created world in such a way that draws me closer to God?**

1. What did we learn last class? Review your notes and rewrite a key point or takeaway that you found significant. If you were absent, your job is to review the student guide from last class and then ask your fellow students questions about the points they're about to share.
  
2. Pull evidence from the hymn in order to answer the following question: How can I relate to the created world in such a way that draws me closer to God?

Kontakion 5

The dark storm clouds of life bring no terror to those in whose hearts Thy fire is burning brightly. Outside is the darkness of the whirlwind, the terror and howling of the storm, but in the heart, in the presence of Christ, there is light and peace, silence: Alleluia!

Ikos 5

I see Thine heavens resplendent with stars. How glorious art Thou radiant with light!  
Eternity watches me by the rays of the distant stars. I am small, insignificant, but the Lord is at my side. Thy right arm guides me wherever I go.  
Glory to Thee, ceaselessly watching over me  
Glory to Thee for the encounters Thou dost arrange for me  
Glory to Thee for the love of parents, for the faithfulness of friends  
Glory to Thee for the humbleness of the animals which serve me  
Glory to Thee for the unforgettable moments of life  
Glory to Thee for the heart's innocent joy  
Glory to Thee for the joy of living  
Moving and being able to return Thy love  
Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age

3. Fill in points Dr. Papanikolaou makes in this video clip
  - a. Creation is ...
  - b. The Eucharist is important because ...
  - c. The Church is not ...
  - d. The Church is, actually, ...
  - e. The Fathers of the Ecumenical councils were so devoted to affirming Christ's humanity because ...

As you watch and listen to Dr. Papanikolaou, take notes below:

- In order to experience the Eucharist, people take the gifts of God, we work with them, and we offer them back to God.
  - More specifically: God gives us wheat and grapes, and we use our God-given human creativity in order to make these into bread and wine. Then, we offer the bread and wine back to God, and he blesses them so that they become the Body of Christ.
4. With this knowledge, reflect upon this: What do you do, or what don't you do, that is Eucharistic?
  5. What gifts have you been given? (Think broadly here -- physical objects, circumstances, relationships, talents -- these all count as gifts.)
  6. How do you or can you use your God-given human creativity in order to improve these gifts?  
How do you or can you offer the gifts and your work back to God?
  7. What does a eucharistic "attitude" look like (i.e. thankfulness).
  8. Think back on this whole unit. What do you want to remember most for your life? Put another way, what do you want written on your heart?