

Conversion – An Ethical and Missiological Perspective

Abstract

The mission of the Church and its proper aim – μετένοια – address the freedom of person. The **conversion** is a bipolar process consisting in both the activity of the Holy Spirit and the cooperation of the human factor. The religious transformation is the collaboration between the Church in its mission, through divine grace (*uncreated energies*), and the person searching to define the aim of his/ her existence. A deep religious change to a veritable Christian truth removes life's limitations from its existence and thereby satisfies in a real way its thirst for the transcendent personal infinitude.

The ethical issue constitutes a fundamental aspect during this process. It preserves the integrity of human freedom and it attempts to give answers to some essential questions: In which way does conversion direct the human actions on a moral course? How does it make to conform to duty and to the norms imposed on us by reason and by the will of God? In which way does the religious transformation direct the human acts towards the attainment of true happiness and to the ultimate end of the person by means of the virtues?

The religious conversion is just the beginning of the way for the human person, as the *image of God*. The whole path, its purpose and its ending constitute the advancing into the *likeness of God*.

IAMS Study Group: Religious Freedom and Mission or Theology of Mission

Fr. Dr. Mihai Iordache
University of Bucharest, Romania