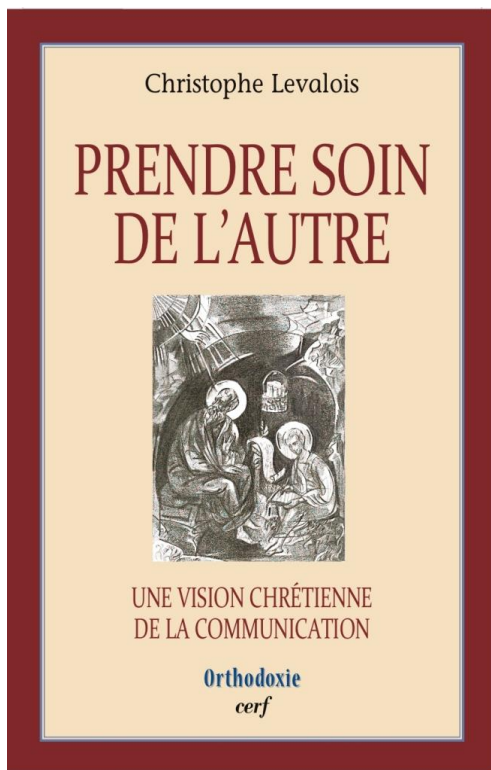


Taking Care of the Other **A Christian Vision of Communication**

Preface of JEAN-FRANÇOIS COLOSIMO

What does the Christian tradition have to offer to communication today? This is the question at the heart of Christophe Levalois's new book, Taking Care of the Other- A Christian Vision of Communication. "A pioneering work," claims Jean-Francois Colosimo, author of the book's preface, who also observes that: "the unprecedented panoramic scope presented by Christopher Levalois reveals crucial questions."

The first chapter begins by emphasizing the division between the terms communion and communication that took place in the 16th century, and gives a historical outline of their development into modern usage. It then goes on to address the communication sciences, their birth in the 20th century, their precursors and their development, while also addressing the challenges and repercussions produced by these developments, and suggests alternative paths.



The second chapter, after giving a brief history of the relationship between the Christian church and the field of communication over the last two thousand years, shows the activity of each of the three main Christian confessions in this domain. The author insists, among other things, on the recognition of the activity and influence of the Christian church in this field, and particularly that of the Orthodox Church in the last 200 years. He mentions numerous initiatives undertaken, including the creation of Christian mass media, of organizations, and also the deepening of the level of analysis through the integration of a theological approach. He concludes this section by pointing to the potential for an ecumenical movement, showing that, at least in the domain of communication, the approaches of the different confessions are essentially identical.

The third chapter is consecrated to deepening theological knowledge on the subject of communication itself. First, the author examines the Scriptures to show that, beginning with the book of Genesis, questions of communication are at their very heart of the Scriptures. The second main theological point relates to the theology of the person. He explains how and why the person, understood from a Christian perspective, is intimately associated with the very essence of communication. The chapter concludes by showing how a Christian approach to communication is fundamentally different from the general vision and practice of communication today. The fourth chapter outlines a renewed vision of communication through a Christian approach. At the center of this renewed vision lies a very simple idea: "Take care of the other," affirming that what is true in the rest of life also holds true in the realm of communication.

In conclusion, Christophe Levalois emphasizes that "Considering the questions and challenges faced by the domain of communication, Christians have something to offer the world and a new orientation to suggest in response to the challenges faced, the nature of which is to bring depth back to the current vision and practice of communication."

Christopher Levalois is a an Orthodox priest (parish of St. Seraphim of Sarov in Paris, Archdiocese of Russian Orthodox Parishes of Western Europe), teacher, editor in chief of the news and information website Orthodoxie.com, member of the committee of media and information of the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops in France.

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