



Excerpt from *Christ Our Pascha*

4. The Freedom and Responsibility of Humankind

The most profound dimension of human freedom consists in being able to freely choose God and to be with Him. This is the good. Yet with this same freedom, we can also reject our relationship with God – and this is evil. To be free is to possess the capacity for unfettered self-determination. Evil, in fact, does not belong to creation; it only appears when humanity renounces the choice for good, and thus abuses its freedom. As God's gift, freedom is strengthened through a very free choice of the good. On the other hand, it is limited when humanity becomes dependent upon evil which is the consequence of its renouncing the good. (#137)