



Excerpt from ***Christ Our Pascha***

4. The Freedom and Responsibility of Humankind

A human being is responsible for his or her free choice: “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day you shall eat of it you shall die” (*Gn* 2:16-17). This commandment of God does not limit human freedom nor does it interfere in our choice. God gives the commandment as a gift to strengthen us in all that is good. By breaking the commandment, a human being rejects God and by this very means introduces sin into the world and through sin death (see *Rom* 5:12). By eating of the fruit of the “tree of knowledge of good and evil,” one forfeits access to the “tree of life” and loses ties to God: “Communion with God is life and light...But separation from God is death.” (#138)