

**A MODERN INTERPRETATION OF THE HUMAN
WILL OF THE INCARNATE SON OF GOD
IN SAINT MAXIMUS CONFESSOR
AND THE EARLIER FATHERS**

Prof. Univ. PhD. Vasile CRISTESCU
Faculty of Orthodox Theology "Dumitru Stăniloae"
"Al. I. Cuza" University, Iași

<https://doi.org/10.47433/tv.xcixn5-8.5>

Abstract

The profound theology of Saint Maxim the Confessor has attracted numerous theological studies in the modern period, starting in the West with the work of the famous Catholic theologian Urs von Balthasar "Cosmic Liturgy", continuing with the work of Policarp Sherwood, J. M. Garigues and in the East Vladimir Lossky, George Florovsky and Dumitru Stăniloae. The present study analyses the theological understanding of the problem of wills in Christ in Saint Maximus, but also in the previous Eastern Fathers, in the work of the theologian François-Marie Léthel, showing that his interpretation is far from understanding the problem of the wills of Christ in Saint Gregory of Nazianzus and Saint Maximus the Confessor, reaching the point of confusing the deified human will of Christ with His divine will.

Keywords: *the divine will of Christ, the natural human will of Christ, deification, unmistakable union of wills, the logos/tropos distinction*

Through the depth and complexity of its ideas, the theology of Saint Maximus the Confessor has exerted a strong attraction on theologians over time. Especially in the modern period, their studies about Saint Maxim have multiplied. It was natural that in the field of action of such studies there would be statements about the motivation of the theology of Saint Maximus, about the theological themes approached by him as well as taking positions on the correct understanding of them by theologians. This is how the work of the famous Catholic theologian Urs von Balthasar "Cosmic Liturgy" appeared¹, but also Policarp Sherwood's position

¹ Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Kosmische Liturgie*, 2, Auflage, Einsiedeln, 1961.