

## The Financial Crisis is a Spiritual Crisis



Patriarch Kyrill of Moscow and all the Russias has responded to critics who have accused some clergy of being greedy. In a meeting with the Governor of the Krasnoyarsk Region on Thursday 3 November he commented: ‘We are not focused on internal interests, even though our enemies often accuse us of that, however, I would say that our enemies are very often the enemies of Russia in general. For example, forgive me, they say that the clergy fiddle with Church life for profit. His Holiness said that ‘we cannot separate the well-being of the Church from the well-being of the people because the Church has no income-generating property, it does not own businesses or engage in banking. We live in exactly the same way as our people live’.

Patriarch Kyrill noted that if we can deal with the spiritual crisis of modern man, ‘we will have a future. If we do not deal with it, then together with the destruction of our spiritual principles, it will destroy our national identity and culture, it will prevent us from passing on our heritage, it will suppress everything that makes us a ‘people’ and our people will turn into mere numbers. If we disappear as a people, if we become mere numbers, then the question of what material conditions we will have will become insignificant’. In his opinion, Russia is a rich land and the Krasnoyarsk region is ‘a treasure of this land. We have wide expanses, but they are sparsely settled. We must motivate our people to settle in these boundless expanses, to develop their God-given potential to the fullest, but only spiritually-strong people can deal with such tasks. Consumers who wallow in luxury, who set great store by extravagance and comfort, are not capable of great deeds’.

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