

THE CONCEPT OF CHURCH UNITY IN “ATENABANUTYUN” BY NERSES OF LAMBRON (1153-1198)

INTRODUCTION

Nerses of Lambron is the author of numerous ecclesiastical and theological works and “Atenabanutyun” is the famous one among them.” In the Armenian language the word ‘atenabanutyun’ (arm. *ատենաբանություն*) means a speech for an audience or for a group of people. Nerses of Lambron named his work ‘*a letter of love and peace.*’

RESEARCH QUESTION

In ‘Atenabanutyun’ Nerses of Lambron discussed some of the issues which existed in the ecclesiastical relationship between the Armenian Church and other Christian churches in the 2nd half of the 12th century. *My research question is according to “Atenabanutyun” which questions prevent the Armenian Church to find ecumenical dialogue with other churches.*

METHODOLOGY

My research is a historical and theological examination of ‘Atenabanutyun.’ Hence, it is necessary to examine the work in its historical context. Historical critical method supports to illustrate the ecclesiastical and political conditions which motivated Nerses of Lambron to write his ‘Atenabanutyun.’ It is relevant to provide hermeneutical critical approach to the text as well. Hermeneutical method illuminates the theological questions which were discussed in the context of unity.



FIRST RESULTS

- The Movement of Unity developed in two directions: Western (with the Latin church) and Eastern (with the Byzantines church).
- Church unity had not only ecclesiastical but also political motivations.
- Nerses of Lambron attempted to prevent subordination among the churches in unity.

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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To examine the Armenian church relationship with the Latin and Byzantine churches in the 2nd half of the 12th century.
- To evaluate the ecumenical activity of Nerses of Lambron and his position towards church unity
- The historical examination of “Atenabanutyun” which includes the year and genre of the text, the question of the opponent.
- The theological analysis of the text of “Atenabanutyun.” The aim is to refer to liturgical and dogmatic questions which are discussed in ‘Atenabanutyun’ by Nerses of Lambron.

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