

Summary

This thesis deals with the topic of human liberty as it was developed in The Great Catechism by St. Gregory of Nyssa. It is concerned with the importance and role of liberty in the particular periods of the history of salvation (creation, fall and redemption) and with the relation between liberty and other important themes of Gregory's work: man as the image of God and as a creature composed of soul and body; the human's fall and the turn from the real good (which is God) towards evil; new life acquired from Christ's resurrection and the adoption of this new life through baptism and the Eucharist.

The man was created for life in freedom; life oriented towards the real good: the God. The man cannot be really free without this orientation towards God, but on the other hand this orientation cannot exist without freedom either. God gave man the life and after the fall he returns it to him, but the acceptance and the shape of this life is at all times dependent on the man's decision. The man, as a created being, is someone who changes all the time. And it is just because he can again and again decide about these never-ending changes of himself, that he can have in his power not only his deeds, but also himself: he is his own master, as God is.