

Q&A

Q: “Fr. Alex, most of my friends don’t go to our Church and some of them don’t even believe in God. Does he still love them, and will they still go to Heaven?”

In the Gospel of John (11:15-15) Jesus describes his relationship to us and those who may not know Him: “As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.” Jesus, our Father and Shepherd, loves us, and He has lots more love left over for those who may not even believe in Him. We can’t put any boundaries on His love, or on the power of the Holy Spirit, which we know is working in the lives of everyone, each and every day. There’s also no way to know who will or won’t be with Him in the end; this is not a possibility for us, and it is not our role. Our role is simply to be good examples for those who might be trying to know Him—and to follow His example: with everyone, be loving, humble, kind, trusting and forgiving. For anyone “searching” for faith, your actions will speak louder than words. When friends and those around you are trying to understand what it means to be Orthodox Christian, the best lesson is to show them. Let them all see your Father in your eyes, your actions and your words. Then just step back, and let the Holy Spirit work!