

***Burial customs and Christianity: church burials in Early Byzantine Cyprus
(4th – 7th century)***

Solomos Orphanos

The purpose of this MA thesis was to study the phenomenon of burials integration into the churches of Cyprus from the 4th to the 7th century. Primarily, this study was based on archaeological evidence and specific to the published excavations of churches, into which identified burials. To better understand the phenomenon of burials within churches in Cyprus, the discussion and analysis of the data was included in the broader context of the funerary practices and customs in Byzantium, in line with the prevailing ideology of dead and death, and legislation, as can be reconstituted through archaeological data and written sources. Initially the paper dealt with the study of burial customs and practices, ideology and the law of burial in the wider Byzantine territory, while the main part of the paper was based with nineteen basilicas of Cyprus, which date from the 4th to the 7th c. and contain burials.