

“Go, teach all Nations”

Sample Letters to a Newspaper SANTA CLAUS

Always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you, yet to do so with gentleness and reverence.

1 Peter 3:15

MISTAKEN EQUALITIES

Some inequalities are worth preserving:-

Truth does not equal error.

Beauty does not equal ugliness.

Good does not equal evil.

God does not equal the Devil.

Choosing those second alternatives makes for unhappy living, isolation from others and social disintegration. The nobler choices are the basis of science, philosophy, art and ethics. A Religion that upholds natural morality and asserts the evil of murder, adultery, theft and lying, might be harder to practise but is more practical. Indeed, it underpins civilization and real freedoms, and avoids the horrors of Hitler, Stalin, Mao and Polpot.

There is a piece of trickery in elementary algebra that proves that two equals one. Actually, it is a fraud, a cheat, even a lie. Similarly, by chopping a square into two triangles and two quadrilaterals, and rearranging them, it is possible to deceive the unwary that $64 = 65$.

Similarly, it is neither helpful nor truthful to ignore the different wiring of the brains of men and women — or of their reproductive organs. Experience and modern science agree. It is not bigotry to say so, nor is all discrimination evil.

Mistaken equalities are handy for rabble-rousing soap box oratory.

Before today's aggressive promotion of atheism and amorality, marriage always involved male and female, even if aberrations like concubines and harems were tolerated. True equality is not getting just anything you want but respecting differences. That's fair!

BEST BET ON GOD

SOME AGNOSTICS, atheists and other irreligious persons would like everyone to convert to them and thereby ensure peace in the world — reversing our Gospel of converting others to God and Godliness.

A good test of any religious or non-religious faith is which is the most noble in its teaching and practical results. The more noble the teaching, the harder it will be to practise — and the more shocking the failures. Not surprisingly, people struggle with Christianity. We have to love our enemies and those who hate us, and alas, sometimes we find ourselves even hating our friends!

Pascal, who gives his name to air pressure in tyres, was given to gambling. He reckoned it was best to bet on God since we would never know if we were wrong! At least, that's a starting point for enquiry.

NICHOLAS of Myra was a fourth century saintly Christian bishop in what is now modern Turkey.

He was famous for the small bags of gold he gave to three maidens as the dowries they needed for honourable marriage.

Thus he became the patron saint of children and of giving them presents. In eastern Europe, children are given presents on his feast day, 6th December.

For English speakers, such presents developed into Christmas presents on 25th December, with parents acting for St Nicholas, Santa Claus, “Sinte Claus” in Dutch. A bishop is a “father in God”, so he is called “Father Christmas”.

Far from being a rival to the Baby Lord Jesus, he reminds us of God's supreme Christmas present to mankind, Jesus Christ, His Son and our Saviour.

MAKING MOTHERS

NOTHING is the same as matrimony. While the word “marriage” comes from the making of a husband, “matrimony” says more, for it means the making of a mother.

Only a woman can be a mother. Only a man can make her so. One young man's proposal of marriage was, “Can you hear the pitter patter of little feet on the floor?”

No substitute is possible for matrimony. Nothing has equality with marriage.

It's one of God's greatest inventions. It's a living symbol of His union with creation, with humanity, and with His Church. It's a symbol which makes His purpose present from generation to generation.

Without such a vision, the people perish.

GOOD AND EVIL

ACCORDING TO the old Sunday School chorus, “The best book to read is the Bible”.

So, once upon a time a boy I know wagged Sunday School by pretending to be sick. He offered to sit in the wintry sunshine and read the Bible, starting from Genesis. Genesis means the Beginning.

Genesis was chock-a-block with good and evil, ranging from the noble to the obscene, from God to the Devil:

Some was inspiring. Let there be light. Increase and multiply and fill the earth. Tend the Garden and keep it. Not good for man to be alone. Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed but a few days because of the greatness of his love. Lots of parental affection.

On the other hand there was murder, slavery, masturbation, rape, sodomy, fornication, prostitution, incest, polygamy, theft, lies, false witness, false pretences, sibling rivalry, jealousy. Wow!

And life in society. Big government, centralized

