

## Faith

binds us to God

### ATHEISTIC BRAINWASHING

**T**HE CHURCH, its beliefs and practices and personnel, are a puzzle to unbelievers. For many, God and our souls are unscientific superstition; marriage is out-of-date; free will is humbug for determinism; and life is an unsolvable riddle:-

Since man by evolution, descending from the ape,  
Acquired what may perhaps be called,  
A more developed shape,  
No fouler superstition,  
No loathlier pretence,  
Has dogged him than the vain belief  
That he was talking sense.

*Pi in the High* by Dr E.L. Mascall 1959

At times, non-believer brand us Christians as dupes or hypocrites. Yet **belief in God is far more scientific** than believing that chaos and chance produced us.

They are baffled by the Church's world-wide spread and continuity across twenty centuries (see *Handouts* n. 64), with a multitude of priests and lay faithful, detailed doctrines and moral prescriptions, its rituals and ceremonies, and subsidiary institutions like universities and schools, hospitals, lots of buildings and real estate. They reduce the Church to what they see, its present personnel of hierarchy, laity and buildings, with no idea of their transcendent union with the 1<sup>st</sup> century Church of the Apostles with most members in Heaven.

The incomprehension is due to:

- **ignorance**, from years of Godless secular schooling;
- **falsehoods** and concealments by the media.

The atheists firmly accept the witness of social and mass media *that the Church is a fraudulent institution of dupes and child-abusers*. The media highlight any wickedness and are deceitfully silent on the Church's vast activity to the contrary.

Our failures and traitors do not represent us or what we believe and achieve, no more than Jesus was a failure because of Judas Iscariot and his ilk down the centuries.

Catholic school products of the past 45 years, often lost in fads and fashions, often swallow most of the falsification.

**Behaviour is purposive.** Those who “go with the flow” fail to see that evolution is a quasi-religion. It's blind faith in chaos. It's unscientific and intellectual suicide for daily living. Ironically, their chaotic thinking mirrors the evolution they espouse — it's mental chaos produced by faith in chaos.

### THE REAL CHURCH

The Church's purpose is to populate Heaven with saints, to turn sinners into saints. Likewise the purpose of marriage is to populate Heaven with saints. Husbands & wives sanctify each other, and together sanctify their children. (CCC n. 1534).

### MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Personal freedom is fundamental for a free society. As well as intellectual power, we have the power to choose the moral or immoral, our “will power”.

The God-given powers of intellect and will interact as conscience, a moral consciousness, freedom, the “**still, small voice**” of God which Elijah heard in the cave on Mt Horeb in the Sinai Range (1 Kings 19:12 KJ & RSV only).

## Family

depends on marriage

## Freedom

links with Conscience

### THOSE SHADES OF GREY

**M**ANY THINGS in life really are shades of grey — and many things are not.

Moreover, there would be no shades of grey if there were nothing black and white.

Talk of “shades of grey” can be a deceit, depending on the topic. Beware of it in moral matters like “pastoral solutions” for divorce and remarriage which negate Our Lord (*Handouts* n. 138, p. 2, col. 1).

Shades of grey can get you out of anything! If everything were shades of grey, martyrdom would be foolishness. If there's nothing worth dying for, life is not worth living. It is the promoters of “shades of grey” who reject *Veritatis Splendor*, the encyclical of St John Paul II on morality.

There are no shades of grey in Our Lord's words recorded in the Gospels. Claims made for “Shades of grey” can be a ploy to evade the Scriptures.

### THE SECULAR INQUISITIONS

Are tribunals for Anti-discrimination and Equal Opportunity set up deliberately to promote immorality like homosexual acts and gender mainstreaming? The latter means that there is no difference between male and female, so it is now politically incorrect to ask if a new baby is a boy or a girl. Also, the baby can be registered without its his being stated — which itself is an admission there is a difference.

## Sensitivity Training

Sensitivity is a refinements of charity to others. Men, even priests sometimes, could improve a deal.

Sensitivity Training is practical psychology. It should make a student more sensitive, like Christian formation as a school of charity, life in the Spirit.

Boys & girls should be brought up to be considerate, that is, to be sensitive to the feelings of other.

For better or for worse, they will imitate the mutual sensitivity they see between their fathers and mothers — or the lack of it. They will also copy even unconsciously how their fathers and mothers treat people outside the family.

In practice, sensitivity training is often caught up in the ego-philosophy, in Godless self-centredness:-

- increased sensitivity towards self;
- lower sensitivity to the feelings of others.

### SELF-ESTEEM

Another half-truth is the term “self-esteem”. It used to mean **self-respect** since we are made in the image of God. That aspect is good and true.

There is a false aspect, whether intended or not: self-esteem becomes a lying lure for self-worship. It can become the road to suicide, says its original promoter, William Coulson. See the old *Newman Newsletters* nn. 115 (23-1-93 & 144 (10-1-96), and *Handouts* nn. 59 (23-12-2008) and 89 (8-10-2013): copies posted on request.

# No Conscience and no Commandments? No virtuous Life!

Without a moral Compass and a moral Map, where am I? I am LOST!

## ATHEIST DOES (1) NOT BELIEVE IN GOD TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE

He might say he believes in nothing. And he is proud of it. Yet he certainly believes in himself, and probably in organic evolution — especially a militant atheist, a relativist, a deconstructionist. And yet:-

The fool has said in his heart, there is no God.

Psalm 14 [13]:1

### The atheist ignores the facts:-

Scientists firmly believe in unseen realities, from electrons to gravity. God-fearing men believe in the unscen Being Who is the reason for it all. Science finds "how it works", religion reveals "why".

### (2) NOR IN CONSCIENCE

Conscience requires us, including atheists, to discern right from wrong, to choose the good and avoid evil.

Rejection of conscience leaves him defenceless against Satan. Then Satan can *directly tempt him to sin* by the World, the Flesh and Devilish Pride,

Or Satan can use trickery with less direct lures. He distracts us all from thoughts of growing in virtue, so we slither backwards downhill towards vice.

Another indirect bait is to emphasize one virtue to the neglect of others. For example, to claim faith and forget charity. Or to claim philanthropy is the only real practise of religion and forget (or even deride) its essential foundations in faith.

### NOR IN THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

"Commandments are an outdated superstition of 'a backward tribe' of Hebrews" — it sounds racist!

### The atheist ignores the facts:-

Our freedoms in Australian democracy come from Ten Commandments of rights and duties, the Manufacturer's Instructions. Our laws are based on them.

While he rejects the Sermon on the Mount against adultery and lust, he likes the Golden Rule:-

So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.

Matthew 7:12 and other texts like 19:19; 22:39

Note the logical order in the Ten: see CFCDE pp. 102-103.

we need Conscience as a *Moral Compass*, and the *Ten Commandments* as a *Map for virtuous living*:-

Conscience is the well-formed interplay of mind & will, and neither lax nor scrupulous, but sensitive. Like bodily muscles, it gets better if often used properly.

Conscience needs clear knowledge of good and evil to assess personal situations. Animals have instinct & conditioning but not conscience or commandments.

### Parable of compass and map:-

Proper formation of a conscience is akin to tuning a compass reading; otherwise conscience and compass lack accuracy and can be deceptive:-

- A Compass** is a magnetized needle,  
with NSEW marked to give magnetic directions;  
adjusted for 1. geographical **variation** from true north,  
2. **deviation** from bias near the compass (e.g. iron objects);  
3. and **junking** bearings taken near magnetic islands.

### A Map

- requires essential items:-  
its **name**, to ensure it's the relevant map;  
**north**, marked to match it with the landscape;  
the **scale**, for working out distances;  
a '**legend**' to read the icons for roads & rivers etc.

N.B. Usually a compass and a map need each other, and so do conscience and Commandments of natural morality.

### Applying the parable of compass and map:-

Commandments from God are natural moral laws knowable from human reason when free from bias, and re-inforced by God's revelation in both OT and NT. and overriding any government laws to the contrary:-

We must obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:29

Conscience, the interaction of mind and will, can't change true and false, or good and evil. Therefore it can't modify the Ten Commandments to suit a whim, no more than a compass can rewrite a map.

### Prayer for a good conscience

Give thy servant therefore an understanding heart... to discern between good and evil... (1 Kings 3:9)

The Ten Commandment (called Ten Words Exodus 34:28 JB)	The Eight Beatitudes (begin the Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5-7)
1. <b>God</b> (full text of Commandments: Exodus 20:1-17; Deut. 5:1-21)	1. Humble before Creator — Matthew 5:3
2. <b>Name</b> (see Holy Name Pledge in CFC DE p. 97)	2. Mourn for sins — all sins dishonours the Name of God
3. <b>Day</b> for worship and rest from work	3. Meekly adore God on Sundays and rest from work
4. <b>Honour</b> parents (thereby learn rights & duties in nn. 5-10)	4. Hunger for righteousness — for virtues and holiness
5. <b>No murder</b>	5. Merciful — it's compulsory: cf. James 2:13
6. <b>No adultery</b>	6. Pure in heart — something more than chastity
7. <b>No stealing</b>	7. Peacemakers — bringing out the best in others
8. <b>No lying</b>	8. Persecuted for true beliefs; also 7. Peacemakers
9. <b>No lust</b> (Hammurabi's Code lacked morality of thoughts)	6. Pure in heart — cf. Matthew 5:28
10. <b>No greed</b> (ditto: only the Hebrews had Commandments 9&10)	7. Peacemakers — links with a right intention or attitude)

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