

What's gone wrong and how to fix it

How to fix SIN and ERROR from Satan

WHAT'S GONE WRONG

THE MESS we are in is very much the product of an upbringing without God and without morals.

People in parliaments and its bureaucracies, many schools (state and Catholic) have set morals aside. **Values clarification**, as taught in schools, was situation ethics and therefore relativism.

Before the 1960s, state schools upheld natural morality and, although "free, compulsory and secular", upheld God and patriotism. In the 1940s primary school we chanted, "I honour my God, I serve my King, I salute my flag". But not any more...

LAURENCE KOHLBERG, 1927-1987

Kohlberg, a USA atheist psychologist, persuaded teachers to use dilemma situations. Students were to progress (or regress!) through his **Six Stages of Cognitive Moral Development**. This high sounding verbiage, like bright colours, was alluring. In the 1970s, it seduced many schools in Australia. State and Catholic schools embraced it. They were teaching moral error and leading students into sin.

Kohlberg's Sixth Stage was **Moral Autonomy**: *auto*=self (e.g. automatic cars or pistols); *nomos*=law. It meant "I am a law unto himself." "I make my own morality." The supreme virtue is "doing my own thing."

Individualism is an illusion, a fur-lined mousetrap. "No one can tell me what to think. No one can make me do things. I'm autonomous..."

When citizens in a democracy lack the virtues required to make democracy workable, they become slaves to rigid conformity, to Political Correctness, to error, sin and Satan. Thus individualism produces its apparent opposite: enslavement by dictatorial governments such as Marxism or fascism. That's where we heading...

Then **Kohlberg did an about-face**. He found that students were lying in lectures and cheating in exams. So he reversed his prohibition on teaching right and wrong — at least for lying and cheating.

It is this vicious individualism, along with Margaret Mead (1901-1978) and others, Australian society, including Catholics, has been left without moral standards and without religion that demands virtues.

Restraint is no longer self-imposed by conscience. Until the 1960s, the better formed mothers, fathers, schools, media and citizens, mostly believed and upheld the difference between good and evil. Now all that is sneered at. It is not Politically Correct.

Restraint is now merely external, imposed by police surveillance, burgeoning bureaucracies, and government inquisitions run by un-elected Change Agents (see *Handouts* n. 145). They have replaced *personal conscience*.

Psychological fragility abounds. How is it that a country with free speech and university students with academic freedom need trigger warnings? Weaklings!

HOW TO FIX IT

THERE is only one solution to the problem of sin: *Repent and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Reflect on the apostolic Church of the first century. In Jerusalem, at Pentecost, **St Peter** could quote the Old Testament to Jews. They firmly believed it.

At Athens, **St Paul** used the Idol to an Unknown God to turn the less proud philosophers towards Jesus. There are some similarities in our situation today.

At Corinth, he reminded pagans of sin and their need of a Saviour. To synagogue Jews of the Diaspora and Greek converts to Judaism (and probably to curious pagans), he proclaimed Jesus was the Messiah.

Later, he talked with Felix, Festus and Agrippa about morals, and they heard his speeches to the Jews.

It is in the Acts of the Apostles we hear of the **initial evangelization**. Epistles were for those already converted, with a few mentions of earlier conversion.

But where should WE start the new Evangelization?

- We **pray** and worship God, and encourage each other.
- We are **friendly**, helpful and win the confidence of pagans.
- We give to all an outstanding **example** of virtue.
- We talk to people starting from **where they are at**: other people in their lives; where they live; what they work at; their hopes (everyone has hopes); their purpose in life; whence comes free will and the power of choosing.
- As for bringing up children, we contribute **our own 7Rs**: Religion, Respect, Reason, Responsibility, and (the old 3Rs) Reading, 'Writing, 'Rithmetic.
- And we can always begin with today's **moral issues**: marriage, family, sex, reproduction, pleasure; death and afterwards; euthanasia, abortion, contraception; terrorists, wars and rumours of wars soon to come.
- We must know our **Bible**: the noblest ideas and ideals ever heard, taught by Jesus Christ Who died and Resurrected.
- We must know the **Ten Commandments**: as natural law, natural moral law, natural morality; as foundations and authority for our present civil law.
- We must be able to explain *why we believe in God and the soul*; of rights and duties; of life as a testing time; of judgement to come; of Heaven and Hell.
- We must give them **Jesus and His Church**.
- We expect opposition to be stirred up by **Satan**.
- We must be known for our **love** and kindness for sinners, and cheerfulness and encouragement to all.
- We must be known for rejecting all **false ideas/ideals** from unGodly & unfriendly governments, media and academics, all of whom claim to have authority to control our thinking and choosing. They aim to keep us quiet with hand-outs, "bread & circuses", cake & promiscuity — with persecution for those who refuse to worship, to engage in the new idolatry and bow the knee to the Baals.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness's (virtue's) sake: theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

8th Beatitude: Matthew 5:10-11

Fear not, little flock, your Father will give you a kingdom.

Luke 12:32

"Without a vision, the people perish"

SEE, JUDGE AND ACT

Catholics and other Christians can live by and witness to the Good News of Christ in the face of the new paganism in Australia, USA, EU. (See *Handouts* n. 145).

Christian **Doctrine** underpins Christian morality.

Christian **Morals** means living by doctrinal truth. *Actio sequitur esse*, "Action flows from being."

Christian **spirituality** is a perfection of Christian morality. Without it, no one perseveres in vocations like matrimony, priesthood or Religious Life.

Today's tragic collapse of marriage & family, priesthood & Religious Life, was *occasioned* by VCII, but *not caused* by it. It is the evil fruit of doctrinal neglect and promotion of heterodoxy. The catechetical wars since the 1970s flowed from false religion in priestly and Religious formation plus many *infernal* seminars.

The way forward? Restore orthodox doctrine, hence morality, hence spirituality, and vibrant Christian living.

We have so much to offer:

- God and His revelation through His Divine Son.
- Moral encouragement: Good Samaritan, Prodigal Son.
- Practical ideals: bodily and spiritual works of mercy.
- A solid foundation for human moral life: the Decalogue.

DECALOGUE = TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Ten Commandments, Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 6, are the natural moral law, **natural morality**, built-in to human nature in our power to discern good & evil. Other religion lacked such complete insight into it.

No one can reverse in-built morals

said **Cicero**, pagan Roman lawyer, 106-43 B.C.

IF IT WERE not grounded in nature there would be no justice, and all virtues would cease to exist.

How otherwise can magnanimity, love of one's country, *pietas*, meriting the good opinion of others and honouring obligations, exist? For these arise from the fact that we are by *nature* inclined to love our fellow men. This is the foundation of justice. Were this not so, then respect for our fellow men, and for the ceremonies and religions of the gods would cease — things that must be preserved, not out of fear but because of the link that exists between man and god [*in coniunctione quae est homini cum deo*]. If what is *just* is decided by the will of the people, or by decrees of princes or sentences of judges, then thievery could be *lawful*, as could adultery and perjury — if such were determined by the votes or opinions of the mob. Were such power to arise from the opinions and commands of unwise people, then by their will the very nature of things would be turned on its head. What is to stop such people declaring evil and pernicious things to be good and sound? If such 'law' [based on opinion] can make unjust things *just*, what's to stop it making evil things, good? Nature is the norm that enables us to distinguish a good law from a bad one. And it's not only justice and injustice that are judged by their nature, but also, of course, what is honourable and what is dishonourable. For, as common sense makes clear to us, and instills in our minds from our very beginnings, honour is derived from virtue, and dishonour from vice. It would be madness to think that their reality is determined by people's opinion rather than by their very essence.

Cicero, *De Legibus, Liber Primus* §§ 43-45
transl. by Father Paul Stenhouse MSC,
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St Paul proclaimed objective moral goodness as the law "**written in our hearts**" (Romans 2:15).

Cicero speaks of it again in another passage:-

There is in fact a true law, namely right reason, which is in accordance with nature, applies to all men, and is unchangeable and eternal. By its commands this law summons men to the performance of their duties; by its prohibitions it restrains them from doing wrong. Its commands and prohibitions always influence good men, but are without effect upon the bad.

To invalidate this law by human legislation is never morally right, nor is it permissible ever to restrict its operation and to annul it wholly is impossible. Neither the Senate [of ancient republican Rome] nor the people can absolve us from our obligation to obey this law, and it requires no Sextus Aelius [a famous politician] to expound and interpret it. It will not lay down one rule at Rome and another at Athens, nor will it be one rule today and another tomorrow. But there will be one law, eternal and unchangeable, binding at all times and upon all peoples; and there will be, as it were, one common master and ruler of men, namely God, who is the author of this law, its interpreter and its sponsor.

Cicero, *Republic* III, 22 (trans. by Brother Christian Moe FSC)

Further persuasion comes from common sense:-

LOGICAL SEQUENCE in the Decalogue

Memorize the Ten Commandments by **understanding** their logic: three for God, then seven for man.

God must be honoured in **thought, word and deed**: so nn. 1, 2 and 3 are on God, His Name, His Day.

Next to God, parents must be honoured, n. 4: They teach us our duties to others, in **deeds, words, thoughts**.

Deeds: nn. 5, 6 and 7 protect Life, Marriage and Property: no murder, adultery or theft.

Words must not be lies, n. 8: no false witness.

Thoughts must be pure on marriage & sex, n. 9; and against greed, n. 10.

DEFENCE of the TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Why **negatives**? "First do no harm" is the surgeon's motto."
- Telling what **not to do** is best not learnt by injury or death!
- They're **duties**, with rights only implicit lest we forget duties.
- Christ ratified each and raised it to a **nobler** standard of virtue.
- Virtues imitate God's goodwill: by them we will be judged.
- Their context is the **covenant** with God: a doctrine.
- **Civil law** has its foundation in them and just adds detail.

OTHER APOLOGETICS — explain, don't argue

There is no event from 2000 years ago better attested than the **Resurrection of Christ**.

LEARNING TO PRAY and listen to God

We can help the modern pagans and lapsed Christians to pray daily — morning and night, at least, the **Our Father**.

Later, the **Credo**, to bring us to the Blessed Trinity:-

Father, of majesty immense;
Thy true and only Son, to be adored;
also the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

N.B. The way to get lapsed Catholics back to Sunday Mass is to help them to pray. Many have forgotten how and why!

INSTANT MEDITATION

O Almighty God! O Blessed Trinity! O Incarnate Son! (and before the Blessed Sacrament) O Real Presence of Jesus Christ!