

“Repent and Believe in the Gospel”

of Jesus Christ, not another gospel of human invention

CAFETERIA CATHOLICISM

TODAY there are laity, priests and even bishops who pick and choose among Catholic doctrine and morals according to their fancy, and the fads of their friends or theologians. They simply ignore the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and its authority.

They are like those lining up in a cafeteria to fill their plates selectively from what is on display. They no longer ‘believe all the Holy Catholic Church believes and teaches’. They are losing the gift of Faith. Like low alcohol beer, this is **Catholic Lite** and a **full flowering of the Warm Fuzzies** (cf. *Handouts* n. 145).

“Catholic Lite” dodge difficulties by compromising with The World — it’s tempting. Yet:-

All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. For all the day long I have been stricken, and chastened every morning. If I had said, “I will speak thus,” I would have been untrue to the generation of thy children.

Psalm 73:13-15

Traitors, to the faith once delivered to the saints

Beloved, being very eager to write to you of our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Jude 1:3

BEHAVIOUR IS PURPOSIVE

They find it more comfortable to live with, and even to teach that, Christianity is more loving without doctrines. They quote selectively from the Bible and omit what they don’t like. St Paul warns them:-

The only **purpose of our instruction** is that there should be **love** coming out of a pure heart, a good conscience and a **sincere faith**.

1 Timothy 1:5

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching. For the time is coming when people will **not endure sound teaching**, but having **itching ears** they will accumulate for themselves **teachers to suit their own likings**, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths. As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

DENOUNCING SIN

The Lord Jesus called sinners to repent. He and His Apostolic Church denounced various sins:

- to call sinners to repent and believe;
- to warn others against the temptations they will face.
- It is not charity to leave people to go on sinning.
- The Good Shepherd gives the example of tact, sensitivity and kindness — charity all the way.

DENOUNCING SIN is Fraternal Correction

Each Christian must **renounce** Satan and all his works and all his empty show (Baptismal Promises at Baptism, Confirmation and Easter Vigil).

The Church must **denounce** Satan, sin and selfishness in the Name of the Lord and on His behalf:-

Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!”

1 Corinthians 9:16

Sinners are to be corrected, privately at first:-

And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. If your brother sins against you, go and **tell him his fault**, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Matthew 18:13-17

For pastor, whether bishops or priests, to fail to do so leaves them open to charge of grave neglect or even cowardice. See Ezekiel (over page).

Moses

But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name which I have not commanded him to speak, or **who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die [...]** when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a **word which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously**, you need not be afraid of him.

Deuteronomy 18:20, 22

Micaiah

[...] and the LORD said, “Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?” And one said one thing, and another said another. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, saying, “I will entice him.” And the Lord said to him, “By what means?” And he said, “I will go forth, and will be a **lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.**” And he said, “You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go forth and do so.”

1 Kings 22:20-22

Jeremiah

[...] **the prophets prophesy falsely**, and the priests rule at their direction; my people love to have it so, but...

Jeremiah 5:31

The prophets say to them, “You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.” And the LORD said to me: “**The prophets are prophesying lies in my name; I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds.**”

Jeremiah 14:13-14

Ezekiel

Again, if a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, **he shall die**; because you have not warned him, he shall die for his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; **but his blood I will require at your hand.**

Ezekiel 3:20

Malachi

You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor at your hand. You ask, "Why does he not?" Because the Lord was witness to the **covenant between you and the wife of your youth**, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Has not the one God made and sustained for us the spirit of life? And what does he desire? **Godly offspring.** So take heed to yourselves, and let none be faithless to the wife of his youth. **For I hate divorce**, says the Lord the God of Israel, and covering one's garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So take heed to yourselves and do not be faithless.

Malachi 2:13-16

John the Baptist

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You **brood of vipers!** Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **Bear fruit that befits repentance...**"

Mat 3:7-8

OUR LORD

Shock treatment?

Christ at times denounced the Scribes and Pharisees: "You serpents, you **brood of vipers**, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?"

Matthew 23:33 (cf. 22:34)

Against lust, divorce and adultery

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman **lustfully** has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:27-28

It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, **makes her an adulteress**; and whoever marries a divorced woman **commits adultery.**

Matthew 5:31-32

For **out of the heart** come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.

Matthew 15:19

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?"

Matthew 19:3

They [the Pharisees] said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" He said to them, "For your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever **divorces his wife**, except for unchastity, and marries another, **commits adultery.**"

Matthew 19:7-9

He [someone who came to him] said to him, "Which?"

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And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honour your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 19:18-19 — a capital letter introduces each quote.

Rejecting Him: worse than Sodom

And if any one will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly, I say to you, it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of **Sodom** and Gomorrah than for that town.

And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in **Sodom**, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of **Sodom** than for you.

Matthew 10:14-15; 11:23-24

St Stephen

You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now **betrayed and murdered**, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.

Acts 7:51-53

St Paul

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and turning to a different gospel — not that there is another gospel, but there are some who trouble you and want to **pervert the gospel of Christ.** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, **let him be accursed.** As we have said before, so now I say again, if any one is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:6-9

St John

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful and just, and will **forgive our sins** and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Any one who goes ahead and does not **abide in the doctrine of Christ** does not have God; he who abides in the doctrine has both the Father and the Son. If any one comes to you and does not bring **this doctrine**, do not receive him into the house or give him any greeting; for he who greets him shares his wicked work.

2 John 1:9-11

TACTICAL MANOEUVERING

We must denounce all Seven Deadly (= Capital) Sins, especially **pride**, and **not just lust** or adultery and kindred deviations from the plan of God; (note the wording: 'deviation' is sufficiently accurate and gives less excuse for anger than 'disordered'):-

[...] for by **your words** you will be justified, and by **your words** you will be condemned.

Matthew 12:37

And we must always explain why, and lovingly!
Father James Tierney