

HOW DOES A PERSON COME TO BELIEVE THIS TRUE RELIGION?

Firstly, he must seek the Truth of God with all his heart, abandoning all regard for his own personal preferences, being willing to give up all to attain it (like the man who sells all he has to buy the pearl of great price in Matthew XIII:45-56). He analyzes the claims made by the Church, and sees how reasonable they are. He can see no good in doubting or denying its claims, and no honest reason for rejecting her doctrines. *Faith begins where doubt ends.* Let us become those “children of light” spoken of in the Bible (John XII:35; 1st Thessalonians V:5).

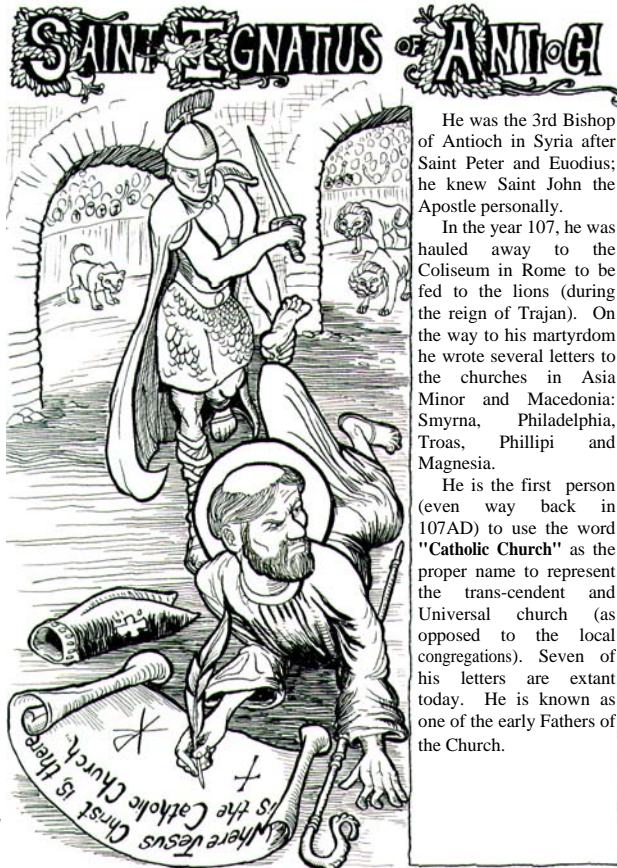
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MAN WHO ACCEPTS THE TRUE RELIGION?

This man gives his life to God, accepting as True whatever doctrines are taught to him by the True Church. Firstly, he sacrifices any long-held beliefs that he finds contrary to the doctrines of the Church.

Then he makes changes in his life to reflect his new Faith. He strives to learn and grow in the knowledge of the Faith. He is received by the priests into the Church, and receives the first Sacraments. He looks for any opportunity to show his love to God. He looks upon everything in his life with new eyes, examining them and ordering all things to the goal of his deepening Faith. He sees how wonderful and precious life is, and considers time as a great treasure by which to serve God. He is still the same man, but somehow different. Everything is brighter, clearer, more directed; no matter what happens, he is able to accept it as from God - for him, even the deepest sorrow is tinged with true joy.

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THIS TRUE RELIGION?

Remember that word, “Universal,” which we used to describe how the True Church exists for all men of all ages, races, nations, classes and even all times? In Latin, the word for *universal* is *catholic*. The name of the True Religion is called Catholicism, and the name of the True Institution, this True Church, is called the Holy Catholic Church.



TRUTH about RELIGION

In this treatise, we will consider the purpose, necessity and oneness of religion, how there is only one true religion, one true Church, how to know which one it is, and the effects it ought to have in our life.

WHAT IS “RELIGION?”

Religion is man’s approach to God. The word *Religion* comes from the Latin: *religare*, which means “to bind.” From *ligare* we also have the word, *ligament* - which *binds* your knee together. Religion *binds* our soul to God. This attachment to God is necessary to man in order that man may realize his proper place in Creation, and act accordingly. The word *church* comes from the Latin, *ecclesia*, meaning a *gathering*. We call it the Church when men gather together in religion.

WHAT DOES RELIGION DO?

Religion acknowledges God as Creator and renders to God the payment of our debt to Him for creating us. It provides the manner by which we relate and communicate with God.

It makes demands upon our life so we may please Him. Since God is who He is, then we, in order to recognize Him as such, must think and act and live in a manner that expresses it. We call these demands *sacrifices*. A religion without sacrifice has no method of rendering anything to God. In order for these sacrifices to be truly sacrifices, it must be God who makes the demands. His demands become a rule of life, binding our souls to God from the inside out. That is what the Church means when she speaks of the “Reign of Christ the King.”

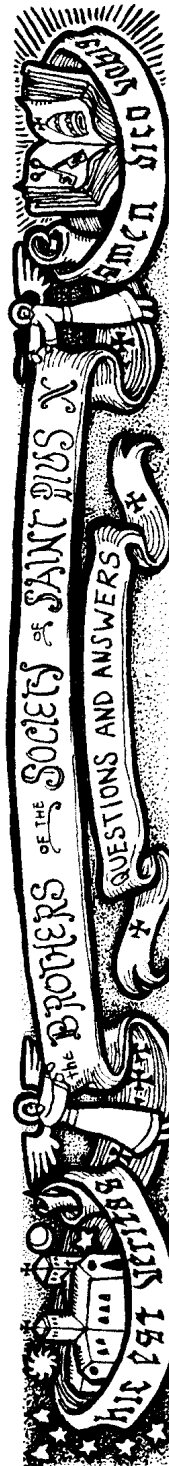


CAN A MAN BE WITHOUT RELIGION?

No: even a man who does not believe in God, nor desire God *binds* himself to something! That atheist makes himself into his own god, because his “religion” is to bind himself to himself. He makes himself the center of all things, and he lives to fulfill his own demands. His sacrifices are made to himself. Religion always exalts that to which man intends to bind himself. This is no true religion; the 1st Commandment forbids idolatry.

CAN RELIGION BE FALSE?

Yes and No. Religion as man adapts it to his own whims and false reasoning will most certainly be wrong. Religion as *God* has established it cannot be false because *God* cannot be false. Any defecting from God’s demands is an attempt to establish one’s own demands. The Israelites were constantly abandoning God’s demands to follow their own. Through the Prophets, God continually re-binded them to His demands.



HOW CAN WE KNOW WHAT GOD DEMANDS?

When God makes His thought known to us, we call it Revelation. Revelation is knowledge that we could not know except it be told us by God. Revelation does not change; His words are everlasting. He always intends the same things, that is why Sacred Scriptures are always so valuable and useful in learning about God: they apply even to us today. And furthermore, God gives His Revelation to certain men who become His ministers or emissaries. God uses men to teach other men. God *expects* us to go to His chosen ministers to receive the gifts He gives to mankind. The Hebrews went to Moses; the Israelites went to the priests in the Temple; the early Christians went to the Apostles; and we go today to the priests in our churches and chapels. These men form a teaching Institution to teach us what has been handed to them from their predecessors, which was given them by God. *“The heart of the wise seeketh instruction... (Proverbs XV:14).”*

IS THERE ONE TRUE RELIGION?

Of course! Because there is only one God, and He is perfect. In order to be perfect, He *must* be the only one (If there were two gods, then one must lack some perfection that the other has). Since He is perfect, His Word is also perfect. His Revelation to us is the thoughts of



one mind that presents an objective Truth, unchanging and everlasting, applying to all of Creation uniformly and completely. His Word does not change to match the whims or preferences or circumstances of the hearer.

So then, God cannot give us contrary teachings. He cannot tell us that two differing things are the Truth. If He chooses ministers to publish His Word, then they cannot teach other than that singular Truth which He gives them. Therefore God establishes not many, but ONE Institution, or Church to teach His Revelation. This Singular institution needs be the only institution by which to approach God; it teaches the Singular Religion which binds mankind to the Almighty.

In order for there to be more than one Institution, then a second one must in some manner depart from the teachings of the first: *“For there will be a time when they will not endure sound doctrine...”* The differing teachings of the second institution does not create a second Truth. It creates a false teaching: *“... but according to their own desires, they will heap up to themselves teachers...” (2nd Timothy IV:3,4)”. Since the first teaches only Truth, the second must teach something that is not Truth in order for it to be different from the first. If the second institution didn’t depart, it wouldn’t be a second institution. The True Religion is exercised by God only through the True Institution.*

WHAT DOES THE TRUE RELIGION DO?

The True Religion *contains* the Revelation of God’s Truth. Through it *we learn* the Revelation He has given to mankind. Through it *we are governed* from the inside out in order to fulfill the demands of God. Through it *we are sanctified*, or set aside for God: our lives are ordered to the fulfillment of His Will; we are made holy. Finally, the True religion offers the one Sacrifice that pays the debt that we owe to God as our Creator.

The True Religion will demand total adherence to its Singular Truth, and will demand adherence to that True Institution which can alone teach its doctrines. It will say that there is no way to know the Truth of the True Religion except through the administration of the True Institution. It will make the claim that there is no salvation outside of its confines.

HOW CAN WE KNOW WHICH IS THE TRUE INSTITUTION?

This Institution must bear the marks of God’s hand. It must be Singular, teaching what God wants us to learn; it must exist for all men, regardless of nationality, race, age, class, or epoch into which they were born; and it must belong to His chosen ministers and their successors. There are therefore, 4 signs, or marks: One, Holy, Universal, and Apostolic.

To find it, we must, therefore look for that Church which make the following claims:

- ① It is founded by Christ
- ② It teaches exactly what Christ taught.
- ③ Its head is the successor of the Apostle, Saint Peter.
- ④ Has existed for the 2000 years since it was established.
- ⑤ There is no salvation outside of it.
- ⑥ It alone is able to offer to God the True Sacrifice.
- ⑦ Its members are of all classes, races, nations and ages, and times.
- ⑧ It Is full of sinners who expect to be ordered unto God.
- ⑨ It alone has the means to make us holy.
- ⑩ It will last until the end of the world, never failing in its mission.

WHAT IF THE TRUE CHURCH LOSES THE TRUE RELIGION?

God wishes us to possess the gift of His Revelation. He wishes us to have the means to approach Him and love Him in all Truth. He also wishes men to go to Him through His ministers which He Himself has chosen. In order for man to possess the True Religion (i.e., the true knowledge of Him), then it must not be lost by the men to whom God gives it. *Man cannot possess the True Religion lest God allows them.* If the True Institution cannot keep the True Religion, then God is

not able to give us His gift which He has given! So it cannot be possible for the True Institution to lose God’s True Religion. The guarantee of security is embedded in God’s very choice to erect His Institution. Establishing that True Institution is the same as promising it that it will never fail. Christ said, *“Thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will*



build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew XVI:18).” In order for the Church to lose the Truth, then the gates of Hell would have to overcome it. In other words, in order for Hell to prevail, it would have to lose the Truth- it would have to depart from the teachings that God gave it for the salvation of all mankind; but as you see, it is not possible!

HOW DOES ONE FIND THE TRUE RELIGION?

Truth is something we cannot see, taste, feel, or touch. We can, however, hear it! We must go to those who tell it! *“Faith then cometh by hearing; and hearing by the word of Christ (Romans X:17).”* If we sincerely desire the Truth, whole and entire, and we are willing to accept it, God, in His infinite love and mercy will always lead us to it. He will lead us to those to whom He has entrusted it. So, to find the True Religion which is invisible, yet audible, we must look for the True Institution that delivers this word. *“And how shall they preach unless they be sent? (Romans X:15)”* This Church is God’s tool to teach us, govern us, and sanctify us in His Truth. His “Pillar of Truth” is our landmark to find the Faith (1st Timothy III:15).