

Cafeteria Religion

If you are a true servant or worshipper of God you will let God tell you how to approach him. Religion is God reaching down to you not you up to him as if you are as good as he is. Thus cherry-picking is thoroughly irreligious. Jesus called it a form of godliness but having no real godliness.

Why you must either believe all of a religion that claims to be revealed by a God of truth or none of it:

#It is said that real faith means you act like you believe, and if so, more than that, real faith means you believe the details that your faith asks you to believe - a cherrypicker is not a real believer and thus not entitled to be respected as a believer for she is not.

#The cherrypicker is not a friend to religious freedom. A religion cannot function if everybody starts going their own way. Real religious freedom is honouring and availing of the right to be in a religion that best fits your faith.

#It is outrageous when the Catholic cherrypicker takes communion and has no problem with the Protestant being barred from Catholic communion for having his religious views that differ from the Church and despite the fact that he wants spiritual help from that communion to serve God and goodness better.

#You are your own authority when you cherry-pick and it is about you and not God and not about truth.

#You put converts off. Why trouble yourself converting to a religion if you can trim it to suit yourself?

#You are a hypocrite claiming to be a faithful member when you are not.

#You are a hypocrite if you celebrate somebody making huge sacrifices to be a priest or minister or missionary for your religion. In fact you should be challenging them and discouraging them. You may say, "Okay, he has sacrificed years of his life to preach this erroneous or suspect message but it made a good man of him." But if he does good it is for the wrong reason - error. He is doing good out of loyalty to doctrinal error and not because it is good. (Think of the Mormon missionary. If he cuts grass for old people when he is on a mission - it is to help them become attracted to his religion not goodness as such.) Part of his life is wasted and its possibly your fault. You wouldn't like it if people let you sacrifice for this religion if you didn't cherry pick it but assimilated it hook and line and sinker.

#You are dishonest for you are saying the faith is true while you laugh at some of its teachings.

#You insult the truly faithful members of the religion by looking for the same rights and treatment as them from the religion.

#If you are right and you know your religion is wrong then you should not be in it both for the sake of the truth and for the sake of honesty and also for the sake of those who will be influenced by you. The religion is a man-made set-up pretending to be taught by God. It is idolatry not to put God first and join the religion he has founded and authorised to speak in his name. Idolatry offends many religions and offends atheism for it is degrading and deluded and carries in it the seeds of stupidity and danger.

#Why do even insincere people make huge effort to evangelise others? Because there is a massive buzz when people accept your testimony to the truth of absurdities and superstitions. People like to feel they have great control over others. If you are a religious cherry-picker you will be seen just as another of them. Members of a religion who suspect it is nonsense will evangelise others for it seems to validate the faith they want to believe in. It helps them think they believe or not notice that they don't. It makes them hope that their doubts are wrong when others seem to believe and convert to the religion.

#Cherry-pickers think religion is a bad thing but if taken seriously - they only feel safe in a religion because they think enough people in it cherry-pick so as to keep the religion from doing much harm.

#Cherry-pickers think religion is not the servant of truth it says it is so they think they know better.

#Calling yourself a good Catholic when you are really just picking and choosing what you want, is enabling (promoting by example and perhaps by word) religious hypocrisy and religious relativism - it encourages others to do the same as you and worse. It leads to religious relativists promoting intolerance towards those who eschew religious relativism and claim to follow the truth.

#To contradict yourself is to be against yourself - it is to oppose your reason. Your reason is a tool to help you discover truth. Truth does not care what you feel or need. But you become dangerous the moment you disparage truth. To be against yourself impacts on others for you cannot avoid being connected to others.

#When a religion looks big in size - through real committed members or superficial nominal members - it gives it a veneer of credence. The size of the Catholic Church is the main reason it is good at getting converts without doing much to look for them. A Catholic Church in the neighbourhood is all it takes to advertise the religion. If Catholicism starts off as a tiny sect today, and the whole world gets a free choice to join it or not, there will be very few new Catholics at the end of the day. Size could be better at getting converts than truth.

#Enabling corruption and error and lies is the greatest evil. Hitler was not the most evil person in World War 2. Those who enabled him by saying nothing were more to blame than he was.

#Our programming makes us look to the future to the extent that the evil the religion we are in has done in the past does not make us consider leaving the religion or drive us out. We are engaging in rationalisation - we do not know the future and the past should be a warning about the future. We just don't care enough that we might be enabling.

#In 2014, the European Court stated that the right to freedom of religion does not guarantee a "right to dissent" from religion. Thus, in the case of a disagreement between a religious community and one of its members, the individual's freedom of religion is exercised by his ability to freely leave the community. In addition, the principle of religious autonomy forbids the State to force a religious community to accept or exclude an individual or to entrust the individual with any religious responsibility.

#All evil organisations such as the Orange Order in Ireland get supporters who reason that there are some good people in them so membership isn't so bad. The supporters are enablers who trivialise the evil in this way. They stay in the organisation despite the fact that the organisation might be condemned for being too far short of goodness. Don't be in an organisation because it is good when it is not good enough. That makes you a cherry-picker when it comes to corruption and honesty.

#Some say that principles do not come first and practice is what matters. But to celebrate the rejection of principles or violence against principles mean you cannot object if people decide to put their bad principles into practice. You don't say that the principle of paedophilia being bad is unimportant as long as people don't carry out acts of child sexual abuse. Your condemnation of their actions only makes you a hypocrite who tolerates their evil. Principles are not just rules but about people. For example, if you value truth you automatically value people's need for the truth and their right to it. Principles consider the bigger picture and look beyond pleasing some people to what is best for as many people as possible in the long-term. If you suffer for the truth it will pass and it is worse to give in to those who hate the truth.

#Each religion is a system held together by opinions. An opinion is a view that could be wrong and therefore to have an opinion is to be open to have it challenged. An opinion is weak if the person has little reason to hold it. It is strong if he has good grounds for it. If the person values honesty and truth more than his attraction for his opinion he will welcome the challenge and will see that if his opinion is indeed true it has nothing to fear from being challenged or questioned. People who encourage religious opinions no matter how weird or out of touch they are not thinking straight. They are forgetful or unaware that in matters of morality people disagree radically in many things. And they do not realise that some people think you can kill to make others happier and so on for happiness is what matters. And others think rules are rules no matter what the circumstances.

#If a religion's members are no better or worse than people in general, then why have religion? It only makes differences between people that some will pick on to create suspicion and havoc. For example, Catholic and Muslim children go to separate schools. Telling them to work for peace between religions will have no effect. What does have an effect is allowing them to mix freely.

#A religion is sometimes described as a club. A club is about the members deciding what decisions are for the best for them. Religion is not a club. The cherry-pickers are misrepresenting their religion by treating it as a club. Its a faith not a club. Its a faith not a collection of opinions.

#The leaders of religion make the decisions while caring little - if at all - for the needs of those whom they lead. They are the men who pretend that they give us the word of God. The believer never gets the word from God but gets it second-hand.

#Atheists do not set up terrorist groups. Some religionists do. If religion is mere opinion and causes that trouble then let that be a warning to us. If opinion can lead to bloodshed and terror then faith should do it far better.

#The cherry-pickers are no example of tolerance so they cannot expect religious leaders to be tolerant. They do not respect religion's opinion that if you think it is wrong then you must look for another religion and be true to it and yourself. The cherry-pickers are no example of tolerance so they cannot expect religious leaders to be tolerant.

#Trust is by nature only lawful if it is not misplaced. It is simply cruel and twisted to have people trusting in what might not be true or which then will or could let them down. Trust implies, "I need protection and to be safe." A la carte people promote religion that they themselves see as untrustworthy. They promote it by example at least but that does not make it any less right. People trust others to pray for them so by implication they do not trust God and think God needs to be asked before he will bother to care. It would be strange to trust others to pray for you to God as if God can be trusted then. If he is not trustworthy, people getting him to act by asking him does not make him trustworthy.

#A religion has to be judged primarily on the credibility of its standard teaching. It has to have standards unique to itself though there may be overlaps with the standards of other religions in order to be a religion or a specific religion. If you can believe what you want then it follows that there is no true difference between Catholics and Hindus - only in the way the religions are presented. There is no excuse for being in a religion that officially teaches falsehood or that has standard doctrines that are incorrect. The point is not how good the members are but the truth. It is not about you or them but about honesty and truth.

#Hypocrisy is bad in the sense that those who preach goodness do not intend to practice it. It is good in the sense that it is still saying that evil is evil and to be avoided. So why do we despise it? Because we consider morality a curse not a blessing. We think it is about controlling us more than making us happy. This shows that we do not like morality as much as we tend to think. Therefore we cannot like religion. Picking what you like out of a religion's required teachings is just another way of saying you don't like religion much.

#When people follow a religion just because they are used to it and no longer see the bad side they may be confusing being used to the religion to believing in it. If you take it for granted that Jesus is God that is not the same as believing in it. You are merely assuming it and perhaps feeling it.

#Bad or good, a religion has the right and duty to set up required doctrines and to ask people who rebel against the teachings to leave. The person who rebels and won't leave is not respecting the religion or its right. And they are telling the world that the religion can reinvent itself and thus is man-made which is disrespectful when the religion claims to be god-made or the only faith approved by God. They come across as advertisements for their religion for they stand up for it at least to a point. People will see them as unrepresentative of the religion and failing to understand their duty to uphold the religion properly.

#By supporting religion or pretending they do, they are opposing truth though they pretend they are not. In the case of the cherry-picking Catholic, the question will soon arise, "They claim to speak as Catholics. Anybody can say that he speaks as a Catholic. How Catholic are they really?"

#Cherry-pickers all differ from one another. The "good" Catholic who uses birth-control and advocates it as being morally acceptable against the teaching of the Church may not approve of the views of the "good" Catholic who approves of gay relationships and is in one. Cherry-picking is no basis for unity. It only makes hypocrites who demand acceptance of their view and rejection of the views of others.

#If you can be a proper and good member of a religion while cherry-picking what it requires you to believe (an oxymoron) and the religion permits this then the religion is responsible for the evil done in its name (eg clerical sex abuse) or the evil done because it exists. You cannot then say, "It is unfair to condemn the religion because some abuse it and their position in it."

#Cherry-pickers deny that their religion is necessarily good in what it does as a religion, in what it teaches as a religion in matters of faith and morals. This is dangerous because if you harbour suspicions about your religion, a better the devil you know attitude will creep in and colour your outlook. You will fear other religions especially the ones you know the least about. Sectarianism is often based on the view that one's own religion is dangerous or possibly harmful but since you are used to it you decide to put up with it and tell yourself that other religions are probably no better if not worse.

#Why do believers worry about their opinion of God and what God should teach. What about God's opinion? Is he not allowed his?

#Belief determines how you will act - all unkind actions are down to unhealthy or irrational or stupid beliefs. It is important that a religion is true.

If something is a fact, it is a fact. Watch out for those who say that when you state a fact, "Oh that is only your opinion" or

"You are entitled to your opinion". Such a person is judging you and accusing you of dressing up an opinion that may be right or wrong as the truth. They are trying to trivialise fact and undermine you. They are possibly implying that are no truths or facts but only opinions. That is a dangerous idea and if they really believe it they will have to admit the right of a man to beat his wife to death as long as its his opinion. True respect for reason is true respect for people. Religious cherry-pickers are turning religion into opinions. They care little for facts.

You have atheists who cherry-pick. You have seculars who do it. A lot of people do it. Now if I say I have no religion and still go to holy communion then I am cherry-picking non-belief. In many cases a person with no religion who cherry-picks Catholicism is no different at all from a person who cherry-picks and who says they identify as Catholic.

Cherry picking anything is degrading yourself by being an advocate for lying and dishonestly and hypocrisy. Catholicism teaches it is the whole truth - the word Catholic means whole. Nobody has the right to take advantage of a religion that is unable to assert its standards, it cannot do much about heretics, by violating those standards in its name. A truly good religion or truthful or true religion will not need cherry-picking. The fact remains that cherry-pickers still in some way, usually structurally, contribute to the voice and influence of the leaders and it is counter-productive to solving a religion's problems and unethical practices. If cherry-picker Catholics left the Catholic framework the bishop would not be head of the local school. That is an example.

The lesson is respect truth as far as you understand it and be open to changing your mind and living in honesty and remember that identifying as an atheist or Catholic or whatever does not necessarily mean you are competent in identifying so you could be mistaken.

Ideology is an addiction to an idea or set of ideas. Cherry picking or being selective with facts is the core ingredient. Cherry-picking respects the religious ideology in the way you respect a cafeteria menu. It sets up another ideology for it is fundamentally dishonest. Liberal religion by definition is more dangerous than fundamentalism. It can be as much an ideology as it.