

IS CATHOLICISM HOLY?

One of the marks of the true Church is that it must be holy. Obviously, if God starts a Church he would want it to be righteous and honest. The other marks are that the religion of God will be united, Catholic - ie have all truth, and be apostolic - authorised by the apostles as shown by the scriptures they wrote and authorised.

Roman Catholicism tells us, "The Catholic Church is holy in doctrine and is marked by the remarkable holiness of many of her children. The miracles of God show her to be true for they wouldn't be done for an unholy religion."

This is no use for many religions claim to be holy and miraculous and to make people holy and to have plenty of holy people in them. Everybody has a talent for faking goodness.

Miracles cannot be accepted as proofs for a religion being from God because devils can pose as angels of light and fake miracles that seem good but which are for a bad direct or indirect purpose are feasible if there are devils. The miracles support false doctrines so they are unholy and a mark of unholiness in so far as they support these doctrines. For example, at Lourdes the Virgin did miracles but did nothing to correct the errors of the Church. Jesus said that fakes will come with signs and wonders that would fool the very elect or those who are fit for Heaven.

Individual Catholics could be holy but their creed cannot be regarded as holy. They say they are sinners. "The Council of Trent has defined that 'after his justification a man cannot avoid, during the whole course of his life, every venial sin, without a special privilege such as the Church recognises was conferred on the Blessed Virgin'. The soul in the state of grace can therefore avoid any venial sin considered separately, but cannot avoid all venial sins taken together by keeping itself always free from them" (page 63, *The Mother of God and Our Interior Life*). The relevant decree was made in Session 6, Canon 23, of the infallible Council of Trent. So, you can avoid venial sins like white lies but you cannot avoid the attitude that venial sins expresses – rebellion against God. This is a venial sin but is different from venially sinning by telling lies so you always sin venially in your attitude. That is what the quotation means by saying that there are separate venial sins and ones which are not separate in their way. But if you sin then you will remember that you are a sinner when you pray or serve your God. Piety is a mockery because you are letting God know that you will do good on your own terms not his. A sinner cannot do good when he or she is aware of sin. Catholic saints cheated a bit when they didn't combat the Church's teaching on sin.

The holier you are the less you will be likely to sin or so you would expect. It is far more vicious to commit an easy sin than a harder one. The Church says that even the saints sinned – it might have been slight but it was still sin. Therefore the saints are the worst of the lot even if you deny that all sin is equally malicious. If a saint tells a tiny lie, even if the lie is a tiny sin the fact that they so didn't need to commit the sin and showed contempt to the grace of God which protects against sin is by no means minor. They have insulted all the exceptional graces they received so sin-wise or intention-wise it makes no difference if they were holy or unholy for they cannot win. External goodness is not enough according to the Church. The Church says that if your conscience tells you to burn heretics you have to do it so it is intention that counts.

Roman Catholicism says that you cannot do good that deserves a reward from God unless you have his help. You can do good without it, it says. But surely this good deserves a reward? What a sectarian and ungrateful and slanderous religion this is.

The mark of holiness principally refers to the doctrine being holy, true and from God. Rome is able to say that even if the whole Church were sinful it would still be holy as it is the means of holiness and the pillar of the holy truth. She has to teach this for there are many sinners and insincere people in the Church. But her doctrine is not holy for it is wrong. There is more. Everybody complains about having doubts. One doubt puts faith out of you. You do not believe in authority if you query so much as one thing it says. Also, if you had no doubts but did not know all Catholic doctrine you could not really believe. You are only guessing that it is plausible. So there is no Church. You cannot really be a member of a Church you don't believe in. There is no Church. There is no point in saying that holiness is the mark of the true Church when there is no Church.

One disturbing thing about the holiness of the Church is that the holiness has to come from each individual member and the Church interprets that holiness as supernatural without knowing if it really is or not. In other words, if a Catholic person does good the Church says that that person does it by the supernatural grace of God so that it is not a natural goodness and this supernatural goodness helps show that that Church bears the mark of holiness and approval by God. This is actually stealing much of the commendation due to the person and stealing it for herself because it is using the person's goodness

for unjustifiable reasons and taking illegitimate advantage of it.

The mark of holiness implies that the Catholic Church must have a holier membership and a holier doctrine than any other religion otherwise it is not a mark at all. Claiming that holiness among Catholics shows that the Catholic Church has the mark of holiness essential to being the true Church is strange considering the fact that the Church now says that the reason members of other religions and even pagans show real signs of holiness is because they follow Jesus unknowingly and through their sincerity they are counted as members of the true Church. If Buddhists are as holy as Catholics then how can the holiness mark prove the Catholic Church to be the true Church? If Buddhists are regarded as less holy then isn't that going to encourage insulting of Buddhists and make the Catholics proud? If pride would have to come from teaching that your Church is the true Church then it follows that God cannot found a true Church or at least one that can claim to be the true Church.

Buddhists could say that Catholics are holy through their grasp of the truth learned from Buddha though they reject him. The point is once you start saying holiness is the mark of the true Church you have to say that outside visible membership of that Church there is no holiness for the argument is worthless if you start saying sincere outsiders can be holy and only look as if they are outsiders. However, it is clear that Catholics claim to have more holiness for they are fully in communion with the true Church but this still makes no difference to the point I am making for nobody can see holiness or measure which religion has the holiest members. So the Church adds to the arrogance by claiming to have the most holiness. The Church has lost the mark of holiness by abandoning it in any meaningful sense that would allow it to be a mark of the only true Church so the corporation headed by the Vatican can by no means be considered to be the true Church.

The Church has no right to the name Catholic for when it opposes the mark of holiness despite paying lip-service to it for the true Church has to have the four marks of unity, catholicity, sanctity and apostolicity and each one depends on the others. The Church cannot be apostolic if it rejects sanctity for that is against the apostles so it is not united with the Church of the apostles and is therefore not Catholic for only the apostolic Church can bear the mark of Catholicity in the sense that the mark shows it to be the true Church.

If the Catholic Church is one Church it is because it excludes anyone who is considered to be a heretic. Any group then could claim to be one Church on that basis so Jesus and his Church don't know what they are talking about. The Church was once almost entirely Arian, that is, it denied the deity of Jesus Christ (page 98, Reason and Belief). Using the four marks argument then often involves dishonesty or blindness.

Rome says that Jesus founded one Church and that she is that Church. It is pride to say that for even if Jesus said his Church would never fail he never said the same of the Vatican. If Jesus thought he did then if he started a so-called Church this result could not possibly be from God or holy and he would be marked as a phoney.

Unless you have adequate evidence that Catholicism with its doctrines is not a man-made system you should not be going forward to the priesthood or giving money to the Church to promote itself. How can you say you believe in one holy Catholic Church when there are heroes of goodness in other religions and even among agnostics? There is nothing special about Catholic holiness.

Catholicism says that it is the one true faith community. It claims to be the only united, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church. It says that if the Protestants suspect/believe/know their religion is wrong and Catholicism is right then they will go to Hell forever unless they join her. Outside the Church there is no salvation. The reason they will be damned is because by staying outside of the Church they are complicit in false religion, error or sin or both. To be in a religion God does not want you to be in is sinful. They are saying they are okay with error or sin or both. The only excuse is if they are forced to stay out of the Church by dangerous psycho relatives or whatever. So if they are complicit and indirectly responsible for error or sin by refusing to join Catholicism, then it follows that if you are Catholic and you find out that the Church is not the religion set up by God to alone teach authorised doctrine and truth and stay in it you are guilty of grave evil. Religion encourages society to imagine it is not complicit in evil when it fails to divorce itself from that evil or any implied and wilful tolerance of it. It does that for its own ends. It is no wonder that people who let others look at child porn tell themselves they are not part of the evil of child porn. They make a market for it merely by standing by and thereby permitting the evil. In the same way, the Catholic who won't dump the Church though free to do so, is to blame for the problems caused by and the lies told by the Church.

The view that Catholicism provides the best way to God forces believers to feel superior to non-Roman Catholics. It is not right.

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THE WWW

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