

5. Chapter four is a detailed discussion of the impediments to Christian belief and service: here is the stuff that gets in the way, that ruins your life, that ruins your service, that ruins your parish, that ruins your heart. - we note the opening words in ch 4:1 I beg you to lead a life worthy.....

prologue: i. There is only one Church, there is only one faith, there is only one baptism. Think about this: the Evangelical and the Orthodox, the Protestants, the Anglicans are not heretics, but Catholics - they just do not know it

we do not rebaptize, in most cases we do not remarry converts

our bishop is the bp of everyone in Riv and SBD country and each of you are missionaries to everyone

prologue ii: there are a great variety of gifts here

hierarchitcal: the clergy

charismatic: God gives you the gift directly

talents: you develop a skill through native talent and

effort (music, RE)

financial gifts: there are people who make money for God's glory

we note the image of the body (15-16)

The heart of the matter: what destroys our faith

i. ignorance:

ii. callousness: I do not care

iii: immorality - Paul will expand on this in the sense of sexual sin to no small degree in ch 5, as well as giving the cures for it, but for now lets think of all sin in general, not just physical lusts, and look at where it comes from: ignorance which leads to hard hearts, and hardness of heart to sin

to digress: this is why real education is so important

real education is actually very scarce, esp in the academic world

real education: includes theology, scripture, literature, music, science, mathematics- the temptation to which many schools - and Catholic instead of teaching people how to think

RE programs failure is try and use education as means of effecting social change or social justice

the lack of Christian education leads to a cruel society, and cruel society leads to immorality, always.. In our country, we cut Christianity out of the curriculum in the 50s, 60s. because C was “oppressive” what did we get? A society dominated by money, sex and power.

But we are never without hope and the Catholic Church stands aa weak but real bulwark against it all: in a world dominated by sex, money and power, we teach chastity, poverty and obedience, as a prophetic witness.

Paul concludes this chapter by listing several very specific sins to be on guard for, as it were the warning signs

- i. lying (25)
- ii anger (26) - its not the possession of it but what we do with it
- iii theft (28)
- iv evil talk (29) a sin which grieves the Holy Spirit Himself

why these four: because we all do them! they are as natural to us as breathing and we cannot avoid them, but we can fight against them.

how do we fight these pervading sins: see verse 32: by acts of kindness. “Courtesy is an attribute of God” (St Francis of Assisi)

Ephesians 5 – how shall we live now?

First Section

Warnings against three sins....but unlike the last list, this set is different –they can be avoided – admittedly not without some difficulty – but they can be fought against.

*note: “fornication” is the trans of the Greek “pornea” a broader term

Paul lists these three together: fornication, impurity, and covetousness. Why these three together: they are effectively the same thing – I want what I cannot have. This refers to sexual sin in a larger sense than simply sex outside marriage: porn, debauchery in general are included in the word. Note that this triad is repeated in vv. 3 and 5

Why are these so difficult:

- i. It is a mortal sin (v 5) this does mean open is damned for having ever sinned, but for not repenting it
- ii. It is extremely easy to be deceived by this lure
- iii. Other people will try to lure you into it (v.7)
- iv. It will probably get exposed anyway
- v. A worthwhile word on the dangers of wine

Second Section: On Marriage – a remedy for sin and a sacrament of healing – if taken the right way. (and children) A few words on male and female gender

*background: on Roman women and marriage

roles, names, law property

modern: shaped by the Industrial Revolution

- i. Key verse is 21: a note of mutual submission
- ii. Wives obeying: (Obidire: to hear) but note that husband have to love their wife as Christ loved the church, ie he died for her.

- iii. The theme of one flesh: you cannot harm one without harming another
- iv. Leave your parents and form a new unit (ref OT commands on military service)
- v. It is a Sacrament – the first one, mysterion. Note that we end with the repetition of mutual respect
- vi. But there is more: children and parents – note again the mutuality
- vii. Slaves: note the ancient role – and the modern one – note again the mutuality (vv 5 & 9)

Third Section: the Whole Armour of God

- i. The Roman military image – this is not a cute image – imagine today – flack jacket and M16
- ii. Spiritual warfare is very real – note v 16
- iii. Let us note the appeal of prayer for apostle

*spiritual warfare is a brutal reality

Fourth section: conclusion

I Tychicus – prob the guy with the circular letter in his hand, poss reading it

II encourage the heart – not to be captain bringdown – but to build us up

iv Love undying