

"Until Luther, all believers accepted the sacrament of penance - of making restitution; either by a fine with an indulgence, or by fasting and prayer, or by accepting service in the Crusades, or so on. It has been a keystone of Christendom, a discipline that had made even mighty monarchs perform pilgrimages on their knees. It had been one of the greatest motivating factors of the public piety of the Middle Ages, making it the Age of Faith. Its spirit was compellingly captured by Shakespeare in his play Henry V, when the king pleads with God to remember his works - not his faith alone - on behalf of the Church before the battle of Agincourt... But with Luther, a murderer could raise his bloodstained hands to heaven and say, 'Thank God I'm a Christian.' If the murderer was one of the 'elect' - for Luther believed in predestination - he was assuredly saved. The murderer, in any event, was not responsible for his actions, because Luther, unlike the Catholic Church, denied that man had free will. These ideas of Luther were, as history would show, extremely dangerous." (Crocker)

"Bossuet wanted to make it easy for Protestants to return to the Catholic faith. He conceded Catholic faults but showed how minor they were when compared to the theological chaos of Protestantism. In fact, he wrote a four-volume treatise - *History of the Variations of Protestant Churches* - that brought scholarly objectivity and rhetorical demolition to the Protestant sects. He readily admitted the religious sincerity of the Reformers, just as readily shot to pieces their arguments, and illustrated how they had ruined Europe with war and set loose an intellectual virus that led to atheism. He also wanted to illustrate how Protestants could in good conscience reconcile themselves to the Church - the one Church whose teachings had remained unaltered for sixteen hundred years. By restoring her unity, they would restore Christian strength. It was a tour de force, which could not be gainsaid, though many Protestants tried. All it lacked was what the Reformers had - them in a personally enriching nationalistic cause. Instead, the pikes and guns would soon be in the hands of the enemy Bossuet predicted. The French Catholic Church would face atheism-in-arms." (Crocker)

"Protestantism was established and rooted by the shedding of torrents of blood; and yet Protestants count it as a great crime that, here and there, the children of the true Church made an armed resistance against them. The heresy of the sixteenth century was the cruel and unifying persecutor of men, whose only crime was their adhesion to the old faith - the faith that had civilized the world. The so-called Reformation proclaimed liberty in matters of religion, and massacred Catholics who exercised this liberty, and prayed and believed as their ancestors had done for long ages before Luther and Calvin were born. A Catholic who gives heretics credit for sincerity when they talk about religious toleration, proves that he knows nothing of either the past or the present. There is a fatal instinct in error, which leads it to hate the Truth, and the true Church, by its unchangeableness, is a perpetual reproach to them that refuse to be her children. Heresy starts with an attempt to annihilate them that remain faithful; when it has grown tired of open persecution it vents its spleen in insults and calumnies; and when these do not produce the desired effect, hypocrisy comes in with its assurances of friendly forbearance. The History of Protestant Europe, during the last three centuries, confirms these statements" (Dom Gueranger, 19th century A.D.)

"While Luther took issue with the Catholic Church over certain abuses, an honest assessment of the fruits of Catholicism vs. the fruits of Protestantism shows the Catholic Church to be the true benefactor of humanity, whereas Protestantism has carried a train of evils. *By their fruits you will know them... A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them.*" (Mt. 7:16, 18-20)

"Wherever the [Catholic] Church was listened to she changed the lives of all men for the better." (Curran)

"It may be said in all truth that the [Catholic] Church, like Christ, goes through the centuries doing good to all." (Pope Pius XI, "Divini Redemptoris", 1937)

"Indeed, in all ages the Catholic clergy has distinguished itself in every field of human knowledge; in fact, in certain centuries it so took the lead in the field of learning that the word 'cleric' became synonymous with 'learned.'" (Pope Pius XI, "Ad Catholici Sacerdotii", 1935)

"The Church, truly, to our great benefit, has carefully preserved the monuments of ancient wisdom; has opened everywhere fountains of science; and has urged on intellectual progress by fostering most diligently the arts by which the culture of our age is so much advanced." (Pope Leo XII, "Libertas Praestantissimum", 1888)

"The Church... carries civilization with it, wheresoever it goes, for it carries with it the true notion of God and of the supernatural end of man. Barbarism recedes; pagan institutions, how ancient soever they may be, are forced to give way. Even Greece and Rome laid down their own laws to adopt those of the Christian code - the code which was based on the Gospel." (Dom Gueranger)

"[T]he Church, whilst directly and immediately aiming at the salvation of souls and the beatitude which is to be attained in heaven, is yet, even in the order of temporal things, the fountain of blessings so numerous and great that they could not have been greater or more numerous had the original purpose of her institution been the pursuit of happiness during the life which is spent on earth." (Pope Leo XIII, "Longinqua", 1895)

"The Catholic Church, that imperishable handiwork of our all-merciful God, has for her immediate and natural purpose the saving of souls and securing our happiness in heaven. Yet, in regard to things temporal, she is the source of benefits as manifold and great as if the chief end of her existence were to ensure the prospering of our earthly life. And, indeed, wherever the Church has set her foot, she has straightway changed the face of things, and has strengthened the moral tone of the people with a new civilization and with virtues before unknown. All nations which have yielded to her sway have become eminent by their gentleness, their sense of justice, and the glory of their high deeds." (Pope Leo XII, "Immortale Dei", 1885)

"So powerful, so conspicuous, in this respect is the influence of the Church that experience abundantly testifies how savage customs are no longer possible in any land where she has once set her foot; but that gentleness speedily takes the place of cruelty, and the light of truth quickly dispels the darkness of barbarism. Nor has the Church been less lavish in the benefits she has conferred on civilized nations in every age, either by resisting the tyranny of the wicked, or by protecting the innocent and helpless from injury, or, finally, by using her influence in the support of any form of government which commended itself to the citizens at home, because of its justice, or was feared by their enemies without, because of its power." (Pope Leo XII, "Libertas Praestantissimum", 1888)

"Why is it that you reject the Catholic Church based on what you've learned from bad or apostate Catholics (e.g. Luther and his cohorts) rather than from good Catholics? Would you go to a 'divorced' person to learn the truth about their spouse? Would you really expect them to give you an unbiased account? Would it not be wiser to corroborate what you have heard from one who was not an enemy of the Church?"

"If the so-called 'Reformation' was such a good thing, why did it "let loose every passion"? Why were so many killed? Why has it resulted in the secularization of society? Why did it result in the destruction of centuries of Christian treasures?"

"If the so-called 'Reformation' was good, why is it that Protestantism has done more harm to the Christian faith than bad Catholics ever did?"

"If Protestantism is true, why is it that Protestants have often been on the (bloody!) offensive against the Catholic Church? Does this seem like true Christianity?"

"If Protestantism is true, why is it "actually based on the denial of religious truth" rather than being a positive set of doctrines? (Even its very name indicates this fact - Protestant)"

"In Protestantism, how can any conflicts ever be resolved considering that you recognize no authority? And if you do recognize one, it would only be right to ask "By whose authority?"

"Why is it that you can go anywhere and find a catechism with the Catholic Church's teachings and not yours? Where can one find your 'church's' teachings? Are these teachings comprehensive and available in their entirety to the whole world? And, if they have been available since the beginning? And there have been no changes since the beginning?"

"Why is it that 'Protestantism seems to be based on the premise that there is no real truth'?"

"Why is it that Protestantism often essentially "throws out" so much of the Old Testament (except for some comforting psalms and such)? Do you not consider that it was written by the Holy Spirit - by the unchangeable God? That it was a prelude to - and is necessary to interpreting - the New Testament?"

"Why is it that Protestantism pays little attention to Satan, despite the fact that the Bible says that the struggle is with evil spirits (Eph. 6:12), that the devil is prowling around looking for someone to devour (1 Pt. 5:8), that the whole world is under power of the evil one (1 Jn. 5:19), and that the devil wages war against those who keep the commandments and bear witness to Jesus (Rv. 12:17)? Further, "How would you ever know if you were in the hands of the ancient enemy - seeing as you author your own faith?"

"Since Scripture says that "those who belong to Christ (Jesus) have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal. 5:24), why does Protestantism not practice - or seem to reject (or openly reject) - mortification?"

"Why is it that Protestants "live in the 'Great Now'" - why is it that all which is old seems to get ignored? Is it because the Catholic Church has a glorious past (including the overcoming of incredible obstacles, enemies, attacks, combats, etc.), and your 'church' simply has no past (at least no more than a few hundred years)?"

"Why is it that Protestants often fail to often contemplate the sufferings of Christ, despite St. Paul's admission that "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2)?"

"How is it that your 'Protestant' church can claim to be the true one when it is clear that as a result of Protestantism, the sanctity of marriage has been so greatly harmed? In fact, your whole church may have started in defiance of the Catholic Church's rejection of divorce (e.g. Anglicans)!"

"Why is it that Protestants often prefer to argue against their opponent rather than arguing the facts?"

"Why is it that Protestants so often appeal to emotion rather than to reason in their arguments?"

"Why is it that non-Catholics who call themselves 'Christians' wouldn't even know about Baptism - or even Jesus Christ - if it wasn't for the Catholic Church? How can your 'church' be the only true one if it had to learn any truths that it does know from the Catholic Church?"

"If your 'church' is true and the Catholic Church is false, why is it that you use the Catholic Church's calendar, why do you accept the Catholic dating system of A.D. and B.C.? Why is it you celebrate Easter on the date established by the Catholic Church? And Christmas on December 25? Remember that the setting of Easter dates was controversial, so surely if your 'church' was around, you should be able to prove it and show how you have come to set the Easter date."

"Why is it that some Protestants recite the Apostles' Creed, despite the fact that it references "the holy Catholic Church"?"

"Does it not trouble you to base your religion on the Bible - a practice that is not Biblical or historical? In fact, it is clear that "the Bible can be twisted to say anything!"

"If Protestantism is true, why is it that so many Protestants reject hell or explain it away? The bible couldn't be any clearer that there is an eternal hell! Do you suppose that "unpleasant truths" will just disappear if they are rejected? Or do you imagine that one's disbelief will actually cause a truth presented by Jesus to be untrue?"

"How can your 'church' be true if it didn't exist continually, and visibly since Christ? How then do you argue that persons could have been saved throughout history if your supposedly 'true church' wasn't even in existence for part (most) of that time?"

"How can your 'church' be the true one when all non-Catholics who call themselves 'Christian' are, ultimately, break offs from the Catholic Church?"

"If your 'church' is true, where have your leaders been shown to fight for the integrity of the faith? We can show you document upon document of our popes doing this for thousands of years!"

"If your faith existed from the first century, show us all your annals dating from then. We can see heresies creeping up even in biblical times, so you surely should have some records of anathemas, as is biblical."

"Why is it your 'church', if it is true, uses a bible that rejects books that weren't rejected by Christ or the Apostles (the deuterocanonical books)? If Christ and the Apostles used them, why do you consider them unacceptable?"

"Why does your 'church', if it is true, use a bible that has evident mistranslations? For example, it is commonly known that Luther added the word "only" to Romans 3:28 to support his newly created "faith alone" doctrine. And, even if your 'church' does not use such a bible now, why has it used one in the past, if it is the true church? "Add nothing to his words, lest he reprove you, and you be exposed as a deceiver." (Prov. 30:6)

"What, exactly, is it that makes you think your 'church' is God's? Did He establish it or was it founded by men? Does He guide it and promise it will be there forever? What exactly do you base your claim on? And, how can this be supported with actual evidence, and not mere opinion?"

"If your 'church' is the true Church, why do your 'pastors' teach different doctrines? Why is it that Christ has one flock, yet you "have many flocks, many shepherds"? Why is it that Scripture speaks of unity and a single faith, whereas you have disagreement and a variety of doctrines? And further, why is it that you call your leaders 'pastors'? Where did you get this term? Did you know it is Latin for shepherd? Since when did your 'church' take on Latin? Everyone knows that the use and preservation of Latin is due to the Catholic Church! "During the ages of faith, the Church (which is the only source of all true progress), succeeded in giving one common language to all the nations that were in union"

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