

What Protestants & Catholics Can Learn from Each Other

“What Protestants Can Learn from Catholics”

1 Thessalonians 5:19-24 – April 27, 2003

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- April 27 - “What Protestants Can Learn From Catholics”
- May 4 - “What Catholics Can Learn From Protestants”
- May 11 - “What About the Mother Mary, Rosary, and the Saints?”
- May 18 - “What About Purgatory, Confession, and Celibacy?”
- May 25 - “What About Communion, Mass, or the Eucharist?”

What Puts Out the Spirit’s Fire? (1 Thessalonians 5:19-24)

1. Treating what others feel they are hearing from God with _____ (vv.19-20)
2. Blindly _____ what others feel they are hearing from God (v.21)
3. Participating in evil, _____ activities (vv.22-23)
4. Not _____ those who have hurt you (Eph 4:30-32)
 - ***Ephesians 4:30-32*** – *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

What Protestants Can Learn From Catholics

1. Roots – the depth of _____

- **1 Corinthians 15:3** – *For what I received I passed on to you....*
- **2 Timothy 2:2** – *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*
- **2 Timothy 1:5** – *I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.*
- **Hebrews 12:1** – *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*
- A sense of history
 - How long Christianity has been around: _____ years (30AD)
 - How long Catholicism has been around: _____ years (590AD)
 - How long Protestantism has been around: _____ years (1517AD)
 - How long Methodism has been around: _____ years (1738AD)
 - How long Grace FellowshipUMC has been around: __ yrs (Sept 96)
- The difference between tradition and traditionalism
 - Tradition = the living faith of dead people

- Traditionalism = the dead faith of living people
- Some comments about ritual and tradition from Tony Campolo:
 1. Ritual gives a sense of belonging, a sense of togetherness, a sense of rootedness.
 2. The ritual takes what happened a long time ago and drags it into the present so that you can feel it in the here and now.
 3. Part of our faith is a set of rituals that keep us from forgetting what must not be forgotten and keep us rooted in a past from which we must not be disconnected.
 4. Ritual keeps you doing what you ought to be doing, even when you don’t feel like doing it.
- Examples: Wedding vows, the Lord’s Prayer, Communion, the Apostles’ Creed, Doxology.
- Grace Fellowship’s Rituals: Worship, Scripture, Prayer Altar, Benediction, Small Groups, bringing your Bible to church, Prayer Room, prayer everything.

2. A high view of the _____

- Sacrament = “a thing set apart as sacred”
- Protestant churches believe Jesus set apart two ceremonies as sacred for His Church:
 1. Baptism
 2. Communion
- Catholic churches set apart 7 ceremonies as sacred:
 1. The Sacrament of Baptism
 2. The Sacrament of Confirmation
 3. The Sacrament of The Eucharist
 4. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (Confession)
 5. The Anointing of the Sick
 6. The Sacrament of Holy Orders
 7. The Sacrament of Matrimony
- What Protestants Can Learn from Catholics about Communion
 - The _____ and seriousness of Communion
 - **1 Corinthians 11:23-29** – *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*

For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

- What Protestants Can Learn from Catholics about Confession
 - The _____ nature of confession to God
 - **1 John 1:9** – *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*
 - The _____ nature of confession to God in the presence of another trusted human being
 - **James 5:16** – *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.*
 - **Psalms 32:3-5** – *When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord” – and You forgave the guilt of my sin.*
 - The spiritual _____ of confession
 - **Ephesians 6:14** – *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist....*
 - Maybe you don’t believe in confessing your sins to a priest in a booth, but when is the last time you confessed? _____
- What Protestants Can Learn from Catholics about Anointing the Sick
 - The _____ of praying for the sick with the anointing of oil
 - **James 5:14-15** – *Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.*
- What Protestants Can Learn from Catholics about Marriage
 - The seriousness and _____ of marriage
 - **Malachi 2:14-16** – *The Lord is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because He was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. “I hate divorce,” says the Lord God of Israel....*

3.

- **Matthew 25:40** – *The King will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.”*

4.

- The high commitment of celibacy of the Catholic priest
- **1 Corinthians 7:35** – *I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.*
- James 1:8; 4:8 – speak against double-mindedness

What Are Your Applications This Morning?

- I am going to forgive the Roman Catholic Church for something she or her representatives did to hurt me in the past.
- I am going to confess my sins this morning and make it a lifestyle to confess my sins daily to God and regularly to a trusted accountability partner.
- I am going to teach my children one of the long-held Christian traditions such as the Lord’s Prayer or the Apostles’ Creed.
- I am going to take Communion this morning.
- I am going to stay in my marriage.
- I am going to come to the prayer altar this morning, cup my hands, and ask for prayer for healing with the anointing of oil.
- I am going to do something for “one of the least of these” in the name of Jesus. I am going to be more like Mother Teresa in the ways that she was like Jesus.
- I am going to stop being double-minded (trying to have devotion to Christ and the world at the same time) and I am going to start being single-minded for Christ (with God’s help).