

EGO SUM VIA, VERITAS ET VITA

Carissimi,

In an attempt to be fair and open-minded, violence is sometimes done to the teachings of Jesus Christ. To some it seems implausible that there could be anything like a "One, True Religion." People are quick to translate the Church's claim to be such into the statement, "Are you saying that my Aunt Mergatroid is going to Hell because she isn't a Catholic?!"

Let's let the Good Lord decide the fate of individuals. We must set to the urgent task of discovering what is *true* – about God, Man and the World. Yes, open-mindedness is admirable, to an extent. The danger is that we be so open that our brains fall out, leaving an empty skull, to be filled willy-nilly by any sort of passing idea. There are those who believe nothing, yet paradoxically believe everything.

Orthodoxy – correct Christianity - as G.K. Chesterton said, is like walking a tightrope. It is the only truly exciting path to follow. It's the razor's edge of truth that we ought to seek. Jesus Himself said, "Enter by the narrow gate, for the road to perdition is broad and many there are who take it." That's a far cry from, "All religions are equal paths to God."

People do make mistakes. But unless the Truth doesn't really matter, we should certainly be concerned about those who are in the darkness of error. At the same time, let us not be quick to judge, for it is God alone who reads the heart and is the Final Judge. Our dear relative may very well be confused. Did not our Dying Lord say, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do?"

That said, it is to no advantage to deny the Truth or to be in ignorance of it, even inculpably. "You shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free," saith the Lord (Jn. 8:32). The question is very interesting to investigate: Freedom and Truth. There's a connection.

But there are those who insist (dogmatically, I might add) that the Truth cannot be known with certitude. Thus the proposition, "It is absolutely certain that you can't be certain." Or put another way, "The truth is there is no truth!" These are obviously self-contradictions that mean nothing except that noises have come out of someone's mouth. Aristotle said such folk "are like plants."

There is Truth to be known. Jesus certainly held to such when He said, "I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life." Religious pluralism does not satisfy the mind, which is made for Truth and not a jumble of contradictions.

Relativism ("what's true for you might not be true for me") is really only a trick to dismantle the Absoluteness of Christian Truth. This is the lead-in: "Coffee tastes good to you but not to me." Great, I prefer green tea to coffee myself. That doesn't mean truth is relative though. Let's change it up a bit and say something like, "Genocide is wrong for me but not for you." From this we can see that relativism is nonsense. There is a Truth to be known, perhaps not every bit of it, but at least *some* of it can be apprehended with certainty. We'll start with the basics and build up the edifice of Truth. It takes hard work, unlike intellectually pouting relativism.

And from the fundamental certitudes of Reason we can advance to Faith; for it is unreasonable to hold that God cannot reveal Himself to mankind. Faith perfects Reason (I do not speak of mere *beliefs*, but of *Theological Faith*). Thus, the statement, "**It must be firmly believed that, in the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, who is 'the way, the truth, and the life' (Jn 14:6), the full revelation of divine truth is given**" (Declaration, *Dominus Iesus*, August 6, 2000).

Jesus put it this way, "No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him" (Mt 11:27).

Notwithstanding Aunt Mergatroid's intransigence.

-PAX ET BONUM,

DON FRANCESCO