

Secularization

A Lord's Flock Praise and Worship Topic

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SECULARITY is the separation from everything religious or from organized faith. It affects the way we live now, enjoy now, and how the world works. The nature of the postmodern world involves easier communication with the use of phones, internet, social media. How do we, as Christians, participate in this secular society (secular/liberal vs the conservative way of thinking)? Witnessing to Christ is at the heart of every Christian. We need to live our faith in this highly secularized society.



1. Is Secularization an Enemy?

- 1.1. Christians commonly look at secularization as anti-thesis to our Christianity; it contrasts with our practice of the faith (e.g. the bill on divorce conflicts with the Scripture).
- 1.2. Is it the greatest evil of our time? How can that be when it is part of who we are and our daily existence?

2. What are the dangers of looking at Secularization as an enemy?

- 2.1. It creates exclusivity.** Everyone was called by God to one faith if they embrace Christ.
- 2.2. Unreasonable reactions.** Everyone feels entitled and have become anonymous in the virtual world. Under the guise of being Catholic, anyone can express anything, even negativity, and become agents of the devil.
- 2.3. Ignorance** - Under the guise of knowledge, people become assertive of certain things even if they are not true.
- 2.4. Disconnection.** Spouses are disconnected, Children are disconnected from their parents. These result in brokenness.

3. If secularization is a form of change, then we should look at it as an opportunity.

- 3.1. Renewed sense of purpose contra stagnation.** The church is open and in fact had been catalysts for change.
- 3.2. Need for renewal of our Christian commitment.** Even when Catholicism has been vilified, it has played a formal part in development of society. There was no separation of Church and State. The Church will always remain as part of change.
- 3.3. Trust the Spirit.** We know the universal truths: good vs evil, love that led Jesus to the cross, love that is done out of self-giving. Jesus taught universal love (to be ready to give a part of ourselves), peace (freedom, a life free of violence, coercion), the value of life (we are anti-abortion, for every life is sacred).
- 3.4. Reach more people through advancements.** We can serve through the care that we give.
- 3.5. Realization that what makes secularization evil are the same evils that the church fought against since the very beginning.** Everything brings goodness but becomes evil when man uses them for evil, or when new ideas are used to abuse people.
- 3.6. A vehicle for renewed evangelization.** It is an opportunity to bring the Word of God to the hearts of other people.

Conclusion: It is very important that we open our hearts to God. To stand for Christ takes a lot of grace. Let us pray for courage to be a witness to His love, to be an instrument in a world lacking God's goodness, and to bring peace in a world filled with confusion.

Reflection:

1. What are your biggest struggles in living your faith in our liberal society today?
2. How can you share Christ with others who are focused on secular matters?

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