

HERESY OF INDIFFERENTISM

DEFINITION

INDIFFERENTISM: The perverse opinion that it is possible to obtain the eternal salvation of the soul by the profession of any kind of religion, as long as morality is maintained.

This is the *great error* of our age. It preaches that all religions are alike, more or less good and praiseworthy, and that God has given every individual a wide freedom to embrace and adopt, without danger to his salvation, whatever sect or opinion appeals to him on the basis of his private judgment.

It hides behind the mask of foregoiing what divides us in order to share what unites us, and thus leads to naturalism and atheism. Its end is the destruction of all religion via rebellion against God..

PAPAL TEACHING

Leo XII	1823-29	<i>Ubi Primum</i> #12.....	1824
Pius VIII	1829-1830	<i>Traditi Humilitati</i> #4	1829
Gregory XVI.....	1831-1846.....	<i>Mirari Vos</i> #13	1832
Pius IX	1846-1878.....	<i>Syllabus Errorum</i> #15-18 ..	1864
Leo XIII.....	1878-1903.....	<i>Humanum Genus</i> #16.....	1884
Pius X	1903-1914	<i>On the Sillon</i> #38	1910
Benedict XV	1914-1922	<i>Spiritus Paraclitus</i> #38.....	1920
Pius XI	1922-39	<i>Mortalium Animos</i> #2	1928
Pius XII	1939-58	<i>Humani Generis</i> #27	1950

Nine consecutive popes, spanning 135 years, teach against the heresy of indifferentism. Such a strong opposition against any other error is unprecedented. Yet it is not just the modern popes who teach against this heresy.

CATHOLIC DOGMA - '*extra ecclesiam nulla salus*'

St. Pius V	Creed of the Council of Trent ...	1564
Eugene IV.....	<i>Cantate Domino</i>	1441Council of Florence
Boniface VIII.....	<i>Unam Sanctam</i>	1302
Innocent III	Fourth Lateran Council	1215

Four times this teaching has been expressed by the magisterium's extraordinary infallible teaching (ex cathedra and ecumenical councils).

It is unanimously asserted by the Church Fathers (Irenaus, Cyprian, Cyril, Ambrose, Augustine, Jerome, Gregory the Great...)

It is clearly and unequivocally asserted in Sacred Scripture.

So why is this teaching so hard for Catholics today to accept?

- ➔ The Church is failing to proclaim it (bishops, priests, theologians, teachers...)
- ➔ Much is being taught that implies otherwise
- ➔ Our society abhors absolutes, preferring subjectivism and individualism
- ➔ Multiplicity of world religions
- ➔ Human Respect - we prefer looking good before others over proclaiming Truth
- ➔ Personal Feelings - we desire heaven for our friends and family
- ➔ We always want it 'our way' without any corresponding consequences
- ➔ We want the role of 'judge' (how do you know what 'good' is)
- ➔ We want God to conform to our values
- ➔ Lack of Faith

INDIFFERENTISM TODAY

Common and popular ways of expressing this heresy are:

- ▶ You will be saved as long as you 'good'
- ▶ All religions lead to God (salvation)
- ▶ We all believe in the same God
- ▶ Dogma is not all that important
- ▶ Coexist
- ▶ Focus on what unites us and avoid that which divides us
- ▶ The Catholic Church is the "best" way or the 'fullness' of truth

LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF INDIFFERENTISM

- ⇨ You become the judge because you have to *know* what the good is, but only God is good
- ⇨ Salvation is limited to morality, so the soul in its entirety can not be saved
- ⇨ Jesus is no longer needed for salvation, because one saved himself just by being 'good'
- ⇨ Denial of the Dogma of Original Sin
- ⇨ Denial of the necessity of Baptism for salvation
- ⇨ Denial of the necessity of Sanctifying Grace for salvation
- ⇨ Denial of the Holy Eucharist as necessary for salvation
- ⇨ There is no need for Faith in order to be saved
- ⇨ There is no need for Divine Revelation
 - ⇨ There is no need for Truth; error and truth are in effect equivalent
- ⇨ The human being, with his science and reason, is self-sufficient regarding salvation
- ⇨ There is no need to evangelize, convert, or seek continual conversion and holiness
- ⇨ There really is no need to even be 'moral' because my religion may be amoral
- ⇨ There is nothing supernatural about the Church (she's just another car dealer)

TEACHINGS FROM SACRED SCRIPTURE

Why askest thou Me concerning good? One is good, God. But if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. - **Mt 19:17**

[By the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ] Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved. - **Acts 4:12**

Wherefore as by one man sin entered into this world, and by sin death; and so death passed upon all men, in whom all have sinned. - **Rom 5:12**

Amen, amen I say to thee, unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Ghost, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. - **Jn 5:3**

Amen, amen I say to you: Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you shall not have life in you. He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath everlasting life: and I will raise him up in the last day. - **Jn 6:54-55**

In the days of Noe, when the ark was a building: wherein a few, that is eight souls, were saved by water. Whereunto baptism being of the like form, now saveth you also. - **1 Pe 3:20-21**

Being justified therefore by faith, let us have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access through faith into this grace. - **Rom 5:1-2**

No, I say to you; but unless you shall do penance, you shall all likewise perish. - **Lk 13:5**

Not every one that saith to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doth the will of my Father who is in heaven, he shall enter the kingdom of heaven. - **Mt 7:21**

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father, but by Me. - **Jn 14:6**

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. - **Jn 8:32**

If you love Me, keep <y commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Paraclete, that He may abide with you forever. The spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, nor knoweth Him: but you shall know Him; because He shall abide with you and shall be in you. - **Jn 14:15-17**

Go ye into the whole world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be condemned. - **Mk 16:15-16**

All power is given to Me in heaven and in earth. Going therefore, teach ye all nations: baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world. - **Mt 28:18-20**

Do penance, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. - **Acts 2:38**

I am the vine; you are the branches: he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone abide not in Me, he shall be cast forth as a branch, and shall wither, and they shall gather him up, and cast him into the fire, and he burneth. - **Jn 15:5-6**

As the Father hath sent me, I also send you. - **Jn 20:21**

And if he will not hear them: tell the Church. And if he will not hear the Church, let him be to thee as the heathen and publican. - **Mt 18:17**

He that heareth you, heareth Me; and he that despiseth you, despiseth Me; and he that despiseth Me, despiseth Him that sent Me. - **Lk 10:16**

He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me, scattereth. - **Lk 11:23**

But he that shall deny Me before men, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I came to send peace upon earth: I came not to send peace, but the sword. - **Mt 10:33-34**

Enter ye in at the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and may there who go in thereat. How narrow is the gate, and strait is the way that leadeth to life: and few there are that find it! Beware of false prophets who come to you in the clothing of sheep but inwardly are ravening wolves. By their fruits you shall know them. -**Mt 7:13-16**

Come ye blessed of my Father, possess you the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels. - **Mt 25:34,41**

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach a gospel to you besides that which we have preached to you, let him be anathema. - **Gal 1:8**

Them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd. - **John 10:16**

That they all may be one, as thou, Father, in me, and I in thee; that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou has sent Me. - **Jn 17:21**

Careful to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. One body and one Spirit; as you are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and in us all. - **Eph 4:3-6**

APPENDIX: CHURCH TEACHING THROUGH THE CENTURIES (FATHERS AND SAINTS)

St. Irenaeus (130-202), *Bishop and Martyr*: "The Church is the entrance to life; all others are thieves and robbers. On this account we are bound to avoid them ... We hear it declared of the unbelieving and the blinded of this world that they shall not inherit the world of life which is to come ... Resist them in defense of the only true and life giving faith, which the Church has received from the Apostles and imparted to her sons."

Origen (⌘ 254): "Let no man deceive himself. Outside this house, that is, outside the Church no one is saved." (*In Iesu Nave homiliae*)

Saint Cyprian (⌘ 258): "He who has turned his back on the Church of Christ shall not come to the rewards of Christ; he is an alien, a worldling, an enemy. You cannot have God for your Father if you have not the Church for your mother. Our Lord warns us when He says: 'he that is not with Me is against Me, and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth.' Whosoever breaks the peace and harmony of Christ acts against Christ; whoever gathers elsewhere than in the Church scatters the Church of Christ." (*Unity of the Catholic Church*)

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem (⌘ 386): "Abhor all heretics...heed not their fair speaking or their mock humility; for they are serpents, a 'brood of vipers.' Remember that, when Judas said 'Hail Rabbi,' the salutation was an act of betrayal. Do not be deceived by the kiss but beware of the venom. Abhor such men, therefore, and shun the blasphemers of the Holy Spirit, for whom there is no pardon. For what fellowship have you with men without hope. Let us confidently say to God regarding all heretics, 'Did I not hate, O Lord, those who hated Thee, and did I not pine away because of Your enemies?' For there is an enmity that is laudable, as it is written, 'I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed.' Friendship with the serpent produces enmity with God, and death. Let us shun those from whom God turns away." (*The Fathers of the Church*)

Saint Ambrose (⌘ 397): "Where Peter is therefore, there is the Church. Where the Church is there is not death but life eternal. ...Although many call themselves Christians, they usurp the name and do not have the reward."

St. Augustine (354-430), *Bishop and Doctor*: "No man can find salvation except in the Catholic Church. Outside the Catholic Church one can have everything except salvation. One can have honor, one can have sacraments, one can sing alleluia, one can answer amen, one can have faith in the Name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and preach it too, but never can one find salvation except in the Catholic Church." (*Sermo ad Caesariensis Ecclesia plebem*)

Saint Jerome (⌘ 420): "As I follow no leader save Christ, so I communicate with none but your blessedness, that is, with the Chair of Peter. For this, I know, is the rock on which the Church is built. ...This is the ark of Noah, and he who is not found in it shall perish when the flood prevails. ...And as for heretics, I have never spared them; on the

contrary, I have seen to it in every possible way that the Church's enemies are also my enemies." (*Manual of Patrology and History of Theology*)

Pope Boniface I (Pope, 418-422) "It is clear that this Roman Church is to all churches throughout the world as the head is to the members, and that whoever separates himself from it becomes an exile from the Christian religion, since he ceases to belong to its fellowship."

St. Fulgentius (468-533), *Bishop*: "Most firmly hold and never doubt that not only pagans, but also Jews, all heretics, and all schismatics who finish this life outside of the Catholic Church, will go into eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (*Enchiridion Patristicum*)

Pope Pelagius II (578-590): "Consider the fact that whoever has not been in the peace and unity of the Church cannot have the Lord... Although given over to flames and fires, they burn, or, thrown to wild beasts, they lay down their lives, there will not be (for them) that crown of faith but the punishment of faithlessness... Such a one can be slain, he cannot be crowned... [If] slain outside the Church, he cannot attain the rewards of the Church."

St. Gregory the Great (590-604), *Pope and Doctor*: "The holy universal Church teaches that it is not possible to worship God truly except in Her and asserts that all who are outside of Her will not be saved."

St. Bede the Venerable († 735): "Just as all within the ark were saved and all outside of it were carried away when the flood came, so when all who are pre-ordained to eternal life have entered the Church, the end of the world will come and all will perish who are found outside." (*Hexaemeron*)

Pope Sylvester II (Profession of Faith, 991): "I believe that in Baptism all sins are forgiven, that one which was committed originally as much as those which are voluntarily committed, and I profess that outside the Catholic Church no one is saved."

St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226): "All who have not believed that Jesus Christ was really the Son of God are doomed. Also, all who see the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and do not believe it is really the most holy Body and Blood of the Lord ... these also are doomed!"

St. Thomas Aquinas (1226-1274), *the Angelic Doctor*: "There is no entering into salvation outside the Catholic Church, just as in the time of the Flood there was not salvation outside the Ark, which denotes the Church." (*Summa Theologiae*)

Pope Clement VI (*Super Quibusdam*, 1351): "In the second place, we ask whether you and the Armenians obedient to you believe that no man of the wayfarers outside of the faith of this Church, and outside the obedience of the Pope of Rome, can finally be saved... In the ninth place, if you have believed and do believe that all who have raised themselves against the faith of the Roman Church and have died in final impenitence have been damned and have descended to the eternal punishments of hell."

Saint Peter Canisius (✠ 1597): "Outside of this communion – as outside of the ark of Noah – there is absolutely no salvation for mortals: not for Jews or pagans who never received the faith of the Church, nor for heretics who, having received it, corrupted it; neither for the excommunicated or those who for any other serious cause deserve to be put away and separated from the body of the Church like pernicious members...for the rule of Cyprian and Augustine is certain: he will not have God for his Father who would not have the Church for his mother." (*Catechismi Latini et Germanici*)

St. Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621), *Bishop and Doctor*: "Outside the Church there is no salvation...therefore in the symbol (Apostles Creed) we join together the Church with the remission of sins: ... For this reason the Church is compared to the Ark of Noah, because just as during the deluge, everyone perished who was not in the ark, so now those perish who are not in the Church."

Creed of the Council of Trent, excerpt (1564): "I unhesitatingly accept and profess all the doctrines (*especially those concerning the primacy of the Roman Pontiff and his infallible teaching authority*) handed down, defined, and explained by the sacred canons and ecumenical councils and especially those of this most holy Council of Trent (*and by the ecumenical Vatican Council*). And at the same time I condemn, reject, and anathematize everything that is contrary to those propositions, and all heresies without exception that have been condemned, rejected, and anathematized by the Church. I, N., promise, vow, and swear that, with God's help, I shall most constantly hold and profess this true Catholic faith, outside which no one can be saved and which I now freely profess and truly hold. With the help of God, I shall profess it whole and unblemished to my dying breath; and, to the best of my ability, I shall see to it that my subjects or those entrusted to me by virtue of my office hold it, teach it, and preach it. So help me God and his holy Gospel." [*The words in parentheses in this paragraph were now inserted into the Tridentine profession of faith by order of Pope Pius IX in a decree issued by the Holy Office, January 20, 1877.*]

St. Louis Marie de Montfort (1673-1716): "There is no salvation outside the Catholic Church. Anyone who resists this truth perishes."

St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori (1696-1787), *Bishop and Doctor*: "All the misfortunes of unbelievers spring from too great an attachment to the things of life. This sickness of heart weakens and darkens the understanding, and leads to eternal ruin. If they would try to heal their hearts by purging them of their vices, they would soon receive light, which would show them the necessity of joining the Catholic Church, where alone is salvation. We should constantly thank the Lord for having granted us the gift of the true Faith, by associating us with the children of the Holy Catholic Church ... How many are the infidels, heretics, and schismatics who do not enjoy the happiness of the true Faith! Earth is full of them and they are all lost!"