

“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.” (Gen 1:3)

✠ **PREFACE** ✠

A few months after his arrival to the U.S., the still-adapting servant was asked to talk to the youth of the Church. He decided to talk to them about the Sacrament of Baptism. On the set date he proceeded to explain the ritual of Baptism and said that Baptism should be performed by complete immersion in water and not by sprinkling like other denominations do. At this point he was interrupted by several of the youth and a couple of servants who were attending the meeting:

“The Bible says do not judge,” cried a young man¹.

“We really need to avoid these controversial topics,” one of the servants suggested.

A young lady seriously wondered, *“What difference does it make if someone baptizes by immersion, sprinkling, or even by spitting, as long as they are sincere in their beliefs?”*

The servant in the above true story was dealing with at least two fundamental problems. The first is obviously ignorance. The second is a result of a pre-commitment to relativism and pluralism in relation to questions of truth². Some people are willing to live with inherent contradictions because they have been told that pluralism, diversity, and tolerance demand it. Pluralists tell us that it doesn't matter what you believe about God, the Holy Bible, the Sacraments, etc... as long as you are sincere in your beliefs. Pluralists suggest that there are many ways to reach God; Christianity might be the right way, but it is **not the only** way. In the worldview of religious diversity, all religions are equal even if they are contradictory. No one religion is truer than any other religion; no one interpretation of Holy Scriptures is truer than any other interpretation.

→ While this makes for happy harmony on paper, in the real world it just doesn't work. Try to assert diversity in the following areas:

- It doesn't matter what you believe about *Biology* as long as you're sincere in your beliefs.
- It doesn't matter what you believe about *Nazism* as long as you're sincere in your beliefs.
- It doesn't matter what you believe about *Slavery* as long as you're sincere in your beliefs.

Something cannot be one thing (A) and another thing (non-A) at the same time and in the same sense. An object cannot be a triangle and a square at the same time. Can something be true and false at the same time and in the same way? Can the Eucharist be the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and be a symbol at the same time?

✠ **Consider the following verses:**

- “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.” **(1 Kgs 18:21)**
- “No one can serve two masters; for he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.” **(Mt 6:24)**
- “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad.” **(Mt 12:33)**
- “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.” **(Mt 12:30)**
- “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.” **(Mt 7:18)**
- “Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?” **(James 3:10-11)**
- “You are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth.” **(Rev 3:15-16)**

¹ This issue will be discussed in the introduction.

² Servants are strongly encouraged to view the lecture about Postmodernism that is posted on the Diocese's web site under literature @ www.suscopts.org

✠ Conclusion:

There is no gray zone as far as God is concerned; there is **only one** correct interpretation of Holy Scriptures in relation to Doctrinal issues and any other interpretation is heretical There is **only one** correct faith and any other belief is false. There is **only one** Holy Catholic Apostolic Church and any other establishment is not worthy to be called a Church.

“Let there be light” (Gen 1:3), these are the first Divine words uttered by God that Holy Scriptures documented. Indeed “Let there be light” in our hearts and minds, “Let there be light” among our youth who represent the future of the Church, and finally, “Let there be light” in our society.

If we are truly seeking light then we need to be prepared to confront darkness because **“God divided the light from the darkness” (Gen 1:4)** and St. Paul wondered, **“What communion has light with darkness?” (2 Cor 6:14)**

