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The Church: Salt of the Earth

With regard to her goals and dogma, the church is alien to the preoccupation and principles of this earthly world. However, with regard to her role, she has been founded and still exists in the world for the sake of changing it.

The fundamental difference between the church (being heavenly) and the world (being earthly) is considered central for her mission and message; for she is responsible for utilizing it for the salvation as well as the advancement and well being of societies and the world at large.

The Holy Bible teaches us “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Thus just as God has loved the world from the beginning, His love continues now and will forever despite all the evil in it.

It is evident that the Lord’s coming to the world was to lay, through His blood, an honored “stone of foundation” to build “the Kingdom of God”. The church is this building in whom Christ is the “stone of foundation” growing in her in a mystical way like a seed buried under the ground to sprout suddenly or like the hidden yeast in a dough working actively and effectively.

Throughout the ages, the inevitable turmoil through which societies go through and the subsequent inescapable misery and constant need for uplifting from the falls caused by its daring irrational attempts, reveal that the church is not just a foreign message in the world nor the Christian a mere passerby. Instead in reality she is the vital respiratory track through which the world inhales from God’s spirit and the essential vigor and spirit without whom the world would suffocate and inevitably die. However, the church would not be able to survive nor carry out her role without the world.

A true Christian is the salt which seasons the world through an exemplary life and constant positive overcoming of the rotten elements that work in the world relentlessly to ruin it. It is important then for this salt not to submit to the spirit of decay operating in the world because if it did, it would be good for nothing except to be thrown out and trodden over.

God did not abandon the world over to its darkness, poverty or disability nor did Christ sit in the temple as a Lord, refusing to have a tent set up for him on the mount of transfiguration and rejecting nomination for kingship. Instead, He related closely to and identified with the core of the world’s poverty, infirmity and ignorance sharing humanity’s agony, torture and torment going through the world’s dark evil spirit, envy, malice and enmity that led them to crucify Him mercilessly and viciously submitting Himself willingly and compliantly out of love and zeal to accomplish salvation.

When teaching His disciples how to serve and love the world, Christ did not instruct them to avoid its evil nor hide from its torrential currents to keep their lamps glowing; but invited all His believers to put themselves on the mountain top in the midst of the blowing winds of an evil world in order for their good deeds to be examined by light and seen as done by God and for

God's glory. "Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves" (Luke 10:3). This was enough to change the whole world. Imagine if Christ had such followers everywhere.

Like the definitive role of salt in food, so is the role of the church in the world; well identified and delineated. Once the church gets ready to melt, dissipate, lose form and texture relinquishing all specific advantages to the point of death, then she becomes an effective seasoning tool ready to give taste to the whole world allowing its purifying nature alone to work effectively.

The world's pain is not sedated with words nor is its malignant growths removed with sermons; but with a ransom. The world is in need of witnessing souls dying every day to keep alive the witness of the Gospel to feed the sick and sustain the feeble.

Without Christ, the tremendous efforts by psychologists and educationalists to lift up the human self value and arm man with social morals were doomed to failure and irretrievable losses.

Doing without Christ is the one and only one reason for and secret of the rottenness of western societies. All the great social achievements gained and accumulated in the previous centuries due to the active influence of the church, are now being infested with the weevils of opportunism, racial pride, sexual permissiveness and criminal liberalism. Thus the beauty of those western societies became marred and the number of the faithful believers diminished.

It is proven that without Christ man cannot safely guard his moral heritage no matter how strong and well founded and grounded it is. Man might succeed in accomplishing every endeavor without Christ but he will fail to keep to the end his purity, faithfulness and selfless love for others. Advanced secular organizations might succeed in serving without any religious motives but without Christ no one can give himself for the sake of the poor, sick, deformed and debilitated.

Modern societies may have succeeded in liberating themselves from the slavery of ideologies, injustice, backwardness and false teachings. However, the abandonment of Christ has turned this freedom into unashamed promiscuity, criminal acts and decadence in human values. In addition, ignoring the existence of a life after this life and the veritable truth of eternity is the main reason behind the downfall and collapse of modern societies which resulted in a huge drop and big shortage in the evaluation and cherishing of the human and moral principles. What moves societies forward into preserving their growth and moral loftiness is their awareness of eternal life and the urgency henceforth to make internal preparation that suits thereof thus proving that faith in the kingdom of God and eternal life is an important element in the advancement of those societies and their perpetual development.

It is essential that we launch internal war against the self, submitting hopes, desires and tendencies to the will of God and controlling the ego spiritually; thus ensuring success in this submission and perpetual spiritual depth and growth. This brings about a feeling of commitment, self discipline and more reliance on God's power to work through us. Such an attitude of submission and taking refuge in the Lord in this proactive war against the world ensures success and victory against the illusion of the ego. Such people feel inseparable from the church and the crucified body of Christ, responsible for the church's weakness and for the spreading of her

message throughout the world wishing to partake in her agony and shame. Such people are girded with the mysteries of the kingdom and have the love of Christ running in their blood. They do not subside nor know how to do so without testifying for Christ and the gospel wherever and however they are. This should be the hope and the faith with which we regard all those who are far from Christ praying for them unceasingly with supplication and love knowing that the will of God is their salvation.