

The Church Is Not Always The Church

Posted by Dr. Gary H. Cote on March 1, 2005

Two recent newspaper articles illustrate well the statement, “The Church is not always the Church.” In the first article, the Church of England, the Anglicans, decided to bless the marriage of Prince Charles of England. As in the days of Henry VIII, so we see again the organized, visible, structured, institutional, political Church placing its so-called blessing, i.e., approval in this case, on the marriage of two people who can be deemed “adulterers.” The Church did not seek for the fruit of repentance, uphold sacredness, or promote honor, or call for loyalty. Rather, the Church accepted the situation without regard for the eternal soul of these two individuals, nor did the Church advance the purposes of God, or the righteousness of the nation. The Church deemed the passing of time and the passing of a disenfranchised wife as sufficient elements to bless an otherwise awkward and quite sinful circumstance. Though everyone is smiling and happy, remember the blessing bestowed on someone by a man in a white collar, or special black robe, and ministers what pleases man does not mean it is a blessed marriage by God, i.e., has gained God’s approval as “right and just.” The Church of England may have said its blessing on the marriage, but the acts of the outward, visible Church is not necessarily the actions of the Church that belongs to Christ.

A second article appeared recording the decision of the Catholic Church to defrock a group of priests that were guilty of preying on congregation. This is too little action, and much too late, however, the outward, institutional Catholic Church opted to go on record and remove its blessing from these priests. Basically, they are saying they have removed their blessing on these men as priests, and will no longer sanction their ministry as priests. However, the Church says these men can still offer absolution to those who are dying. “What!” “Ridiculous!” No wonder many others bring the Church under question. These ungodly men proved themselves to be most hypocritical, living their lives in shadows, hiding their perversion behind sacredness and goodness. Yet, they can absolve someone of sins. This is a slap in the face of Christ, who died for our sins and is the only Mediator between God and man. God alone absolves one of their sins. For a corporate Church to approve of such a decision is an outright blasphemous act diluting the work of Christ, while promoting itself as merciful, forgiving and just. This is a mockery of goodness and grace.

Remember, the Holy Spirit warned believers through the ministry of St. John (4:1); He said, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone into the world.” Through St. Paul He said, Satan our adversary can disguise himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). What better place for Satan to hide than an institutional arena considered by Man to be a vocation of holiness and goodness?

There are numerous instances continually surfacing, beside these two, offering evidence that the Church is not always the Church. Truly, the actions of the visible Church are not always the

Church of Christ Jesus in operation. Truly, all must be careful to know the truth. The Christians of the Bible were first called Christians by others because they demonstrated the same character and concerns as Christ. Be a person who can discern and decide when a person is of the one, true God!

May the Lord grant all wisdom and grace to receive this message and live out its purpose!