

The Christian Training Center
Crusader

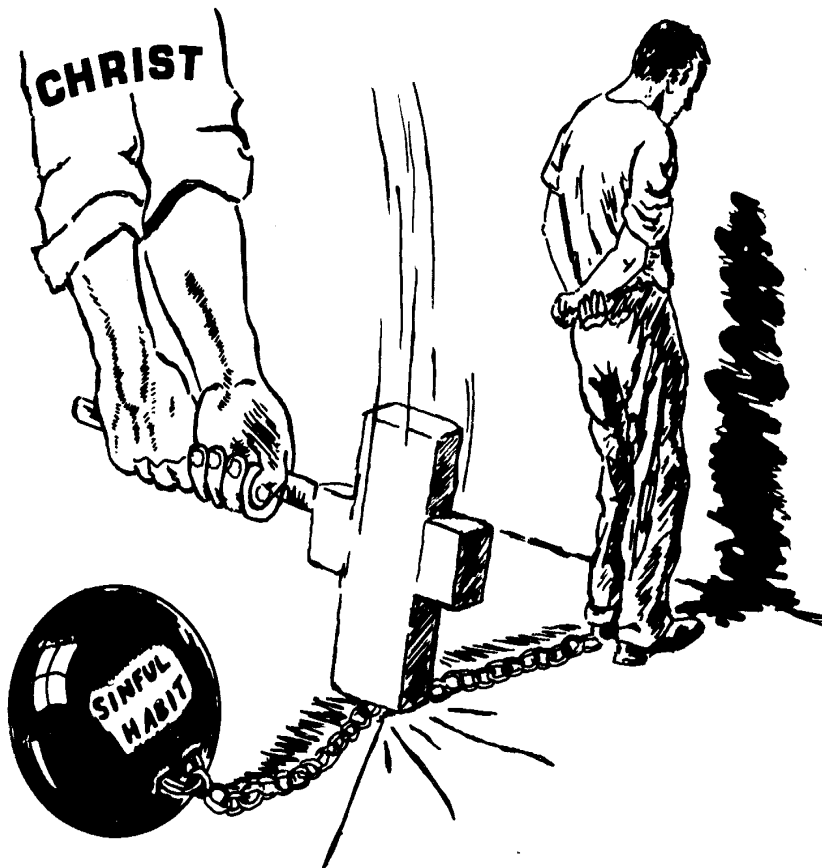
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*If the Son therefore shall make
you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

JOHN 8:36



THE WORKS OF THE FLESH
By R. (Red) P. Schoen, Cont.

Part Three:

The old nature is God's enemy, and, if we walk in it, it can destroy our testimony, our spiritual manifestation, cause us to fall, ruin our ministry so we become of no use to God - and end up being turned over to Satan - and finally God Himself could remove us by physical death because we are such a reproach to Him.

Don't blame people if your opportunity has not come along- if you are not used or leading a class. God is not going to use you in leadership until you are ready. No body can open the door for you - neither can any man hinder God. Except God opens the door, you are a trespasser and subject to God's disciplinary action if you try to- the quickest and best way is to submit yourself under the mighty hand of God - we must learn submission before we can be trusted to lead.

Phil.2:1-16 "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies. Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world: Holding forth the word of life: that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain!"

It is important to those who labour to train you, for they must give

account, that you enter into what God has called you to be - - you are their joy and crown. Phil. 4:1 "Therefore, my brethern dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved!"

When you move in your ministry as you ought, then they know that they can rejoice in the day of Christ, and that they have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. Heb.12:1-13 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons, for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby, Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way: (as profitless to the Lord) but let it rather be healed! (by repentance be restored to the right way). The End.



WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Book Review: "Roman Catholicism" By Boettner

The Priesthood, Cont.

We do not need a man to mediate between ourselves and God. We do not come to God on the basis of our own personal worth -- the Roman Catholic Church teaches that we are not worthy to approach the throne of grace. We Christians do not come on the basis of our own personal merit -- but we come to Him in the Name of Jesus. The Roman Catholic Church has many mediators, we have One.

The return to a sacrificing priesthood was a return to the Law and to Judaism. It is not scriptural but is Apostate. The priest is a dictator, part of a sacred order, altogether apart from and superior to the people of the parish.

The Word teaches us that God gave Gifts to the Church for the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. So that we may no longer be children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles.

God's goal is the maturity of the Church and he provided gifted men to help the church grow up. He gave some Apostles, some Prophets, some Evangelists, some Pastors and teachers -- no priests. In a priesthood of believers one man is not more of a priest than another. He is not more precious or more special to God nor is he any closer. Christianity (true) is a great leveler -- the humble are brought up because they have been purchased by God, and the rich and powerful are brought low because nothing that they have achieved is in their strength. He who would be great in the kingdom of God must be the servant of all. The Roman Church is a hierarchy-- with one office above another, priests, bishops, cardinals, and popes. Offices are sought after in the church as eagerly as they are in states and nations. In the dark ages offices and positions were even offered for sale.

The development of the priesthood of Roman Catholicism can be traced in detail in the history of the church, for it was not until the third and fourth century that priests began to appear in the church, and about 500 AD that they began to dress differently.

6.

The Apostle Peter never referred to himself as a priest or a Pope. He was content to call himself one of the elders and he urged those with authority not to lord it over God's heritage. 1 Peter 5:1-3 "Tend the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, not of constraint, but willingly, according to the will of God, nor yet for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as lording it over the charge allotted to you, but making yourselves examples to the flock.

Claims Of The Roman Priesthood

Council of Trent:

The priest is the man of God, the minister of God, He that despiseth the priest despiseth God, he that hears him hears God. The priest remits sins as God, and that which he calls his body at the altar is adored as God by himself and the congregation... It is clear that they are justly called not only angels but also God, holding as they do among us the power and authority of the immortal God.

In a similar vein a Roman Catholic book, carrying the imprimature of the Archbishop of Ottawa, Canada says: Without the priest the death and passion of our Lord would be of no avail to us. See the power of the priest! By one word from his lips he changes a piece of bread into a God! A greater fact the creation of the world. "If I were to meet a priest and an angel, I would salute the priest before saluting the angel. The priest holds the place of God!"

If you are a good Roman Catholic, you must do exactly what the priest says. He may enquire into their affairs through the confessional. He is the father confessor and director of conscience, and as God's spokesman to the people, his word is not to be questioned. In Romanist countries the priest inspires fear and dread. They look to him in much the same way that the pagan people do to their witch-doctor.

The key to the whole system of Roman Catholicism is the priest. Many priests struggle within themselves as to whether they should stay in the priesthood or not. He possesses a Bible, but in accordance with the rule of his church, he usually does not dare to read it apart from the assigned notes and commentaries, and so he remains ignorant of its saving message. When he does read the Bible he finds that most of the doctrines that he has held and taught either were perversions of the scriptures or that they were the inventions of man.

7.

It may seem odd to us that it would take a priest so long to find the truth but they enter their course of training, which lasts twelve years, right out of parochial school, preferably at the age of 16. They do not know any other kind of life. They are highly impressionable, thoroughly indoctrinated, taking three vows: poverty, chastity, and obedience. Obedience being the most important. They must give abject submission to their superiors.

The robe of every Franciscan monk is girded with a rope. One strand hangs from his side. It has three knots on it symbolizing the three vows, and the bottom knot is for obedience. The young Franciscan is trained that when the Provincial Superior greets him he must kneel on one knee and kiss the lowest knot on the Superior's cord, and kiss his hand. It is the token of complete, abject, unreasoning obedience... The student priest must learn to crush the desire of the flesh by fasting, self denial and even physical pain.

In the senior seminaries for the Franciscan priests they have a whip hanging inside the door of each mans cell (bedroom). It is made of several strands of heavy cord, each knotted at the end. Each Mon., Wed., and Friday evening at 5:45 p.m. they go into the rooms and close the doors, disrobe to the chant of the "Miserere" and then procede to scourge their flesh and to bring it into submission. The superior patrols the corridors to listen to the sound of the beating.

This is clearly ascetism — the kind of thing one would expect from hindus lying upon boards of nails, beating their flesh into subjection. We do not mortify the flesh in this manner. This is a spiritual battle; we die to ourselves by reckoning ourselves dead, crucified with Christ. The flesh can never cast out flesh, it is a work of grace.

The priestly course or preparation ends with a beautiful ceremony in which the bishop pronounces the candidate: "Thou art a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek!" He becomes another Christ. He now offers in the mass the same sacrifice that Christ offered on the cross. (Compiled by Judy Cliff)

The END.



THE "HOW TO" CORNER

"HOW TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY"

CONT.

By Dr. Edith R. Grimes

When did man start taking responsibility? God gave Adam responsibility away back in the beginning. In Gen.2:15 God put Adam in the garden to till it and keep it. Then in verses 19 and 20 we read how God made the animals and gave Adam the responsibility of naming them all. Adam was also given responsibility of choosing whether he would obey God or not. He was not to eat of the trees in the midst of the garden but was influenced through Satan and Eve.

When did man first shirk responsibility? Cain was a very carnal man who wanted to earn his blessings by the fruit of the ground which speaks of man's effort and of Legalism. Abel was a man of God and accepted the responsibility of doing things right and offering a lamb in faith.

How did Abraham accept family responsibility? in Gen.11:31,32 we see Abraham and his father and brother leaving Ur of Chaldees to go to Canaan. The father died in Haran then Lot and his herdsmen had problems in Chapter 12, and in chapter 13 Lot and Abraham separate after giving Lot first choice, when he chose the lower plains with Sodom and Gomorrah. Then we see Abraham as the Intercessor in Gen. 18:23 pleading for even ten righteous in those cities. Praise God for those who will take the responsibility of Prayer and Intercession for those in need. In Gen.22: we see Abraham with his only son Isaac taking the responsibility to obey God regardless of the cost. But God in mercy spares Isaac at the very last moment and provides a ram for a sacrifice.

How did Daniel and his friends accept responsibility in regards to serving God? They were willing to accept the consequences even tho' it ment being cast into the fiery furnace. Did God help them with their responsibility? Yes, He went in the furnace with them. How did they come out? Safely without even the smell of smoke on them. Can God help us with our responsibility today? Yes, He will never leave nor forsake us.

How did the twelve spies react to responsibility? Two of them came back full of faith and said "We be well able" but ten came back saying "We be not able." Any dead fish can float with the tide but it takes a live one to go upstream. Know who your God is and what He can do and stand for it. You have the equipment that it takes-use it.

To whom did Moses pass his responsibility on to when he was about to die? To Joshua in Duet.34:9. What challenge did God give Joshua? Josh. 1:9 "Be strong and of a good courage, be not afraid!" Not afraid to take Jericho, that huge thick walled city. Did God share the responsibility with Him? Yes, he sent the Captian of the host of the Lord (Josh.5:13-15). What happened when they obeyed to the letter the commands that were given them? The walls fell flat and they walked in victorious. Sometimes we have to be a fool for Christ sake. Will God let us down? No.

What is our responsibility to God? God chose us as His children and gave us Salvation. Now we must "put off" the old man and "Put on" the new man and live for God. He gave us the Baptism of the Holy Spirit that we might have the Holy Spirit dwelling within to help us. Then He gave us a Ministry, a profession in the Body of Christ and Gifts of the Holy Spirit as tools to use to fulfill the ministry that we might get the job done against Satan.

What responsibility do we have to our Ministry? To be a specialist in it. Not to go to far but to go far enough and not to shirk the responsibility of it.

What responsibility did Peter have to take on the day of Pentecost? He had to explain what had happened. In Acts 2:1-14 he opened his mouth and explained what had happened saying:"This is that" that was prophesied back in Joel.

How did Peter accept the responsibility of Healing? As he came towards the temple and saw the poor lame man laying there, what did he do? "Such as I have give I thee. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" What happened? the man leaped and walked and entered into the temple praising God. Acts 3:6 Peter took the responsibility of using the Gift that God had given him when there was a need.

What was one of Paul's first questions when he met the Lord? What wilt thou have me to do? or in other words, what responsibility do you want me to take?(Acts 9:5,15) Soon Ananias came and revealed it unto him that he was to be an Apostle to the Gentiles. Did he take the responsibility? Yes, he did the job and took care of all the churches. What did Paul believe? That we are more than conquerors (Rom.8:37) and that nothing can separate us from God (verses 35-39). He had a real determination to do God's Will and let nothing come between. Do we have that determination? What were some of the things Paul went through? Read 2 Cor.11:23-28. Was the Lord with him? Yes.

10.

What is our responsibility today? It is our responsibility to know the will of God and walk in it. To take responsibility in the natural and in the spiritual. Don't be a Coward! Don't shirk responsibility! Don't evade it! Don't fear it! Accept it! Be the responsible person God wants you to be and He will help you with it. You can do it and do it successfully. Why? Because God has made you to bear responsibility. No exceptions! Remember: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me!" End.



GIVE THE WORD PRIORITY

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