

Fr. Perozich comments —

I was ordained to lead people to Jesus in Word, Sacrament, and Charity. When I hear confusion, I try to clarify it. Many of the confused are trying to lead me to themselves with clever rationalizations. Jesus and the Scripture and Holy Tradition are my touchstone.

I received this comment on one of my recent posts.

I offered the following in gentle clarification.

I heard it said during the one year I spent in an Episcopal seminary (1960-61) and by Catholic priests since - Jesuit, Benedictine, and diocesan priests - that the religion we have now is more about Paul than it is about Jesus.

I have ordered 2 books by a prominent rabbi who has a ministry trying to bring back Jews who have converted to Christianity. He maintains that Paul has twisted or misquoted the Jewish scriptures to fit his own narrative or point of view. He also maintains that Paul is more the founder of Christianity, than Jesus is.

The one thing some of the bishops seemed to be obsessed about is orthodoxy and same sex relations - something Jesus never talked about or mentioned.

They seem to have little interest in anything Jesus talked about or taught.

His focus, as he outlined in the Sermon on the Mount, was about love of enemies, not drawing attention to one's self when giving alms, saying prayers, or fasting, storing up treasures in heaven - not on earth, not judging others, treating others the way you would like to be treated, and doing the will of the Father.

Apparently, he had little interest in homosexuality or orthodoxy - even in his own religion of Judaism, as evidenced by His not washing of hands before eating, picking grain on the Sabbath, healing on the Sabbath, taking the Show Bread from

the altar which was meant for the priests, and eating with prostitutes and sinners.

When the laity see the bishops criticizing each other, sitting in judgement of one another it just, it only confirms in their minds that the hierarchy is mostly about power and trying to get ahead to a higher position - priests wanting to be bishops, bishops wanting to be archbishops, and archbishops wanting to be cardinals, and cardinals wanting to be pope. Having a power hungry and mostly corrupt hierarchy is not a good ad for the Church.

Besides, since it is the pope who creates bishops, if they need discipling, he is the only appropriate person to do it - not their fellow bishops. Without exception, all of the Catholics we know - and many are Marjo's fellow Secular Franciscans - have little respect for the hierarchy in general ,although they may admire individual bishops.

Whether people like Francis or not, at least he is doing something that JPII or Benedict never did - he is cutting back their \$5.900 a month stipend and making them pay some rent for their apartments.

No one I know - whether Catholic or Protestant thinks their Church is what Jesus would have wanted or would be proud of. Someday things will get better, but neither you nor I will live to see it.

My response

Jesus said that not one iota of the law shall pass away until all is accomplished. He affirms everything He has said before through Moses.

Jesus spoke only of marriage between man and woman.

Paul reached out to the non Jewish world where sexual depravity existed, and called the converts there to the Biblical teaching so that they would abandon their former ways of sexual license, and use their “members” for the right intention.

Paul’s teachings on sexuality were only a small part of his need to address his converts so that they would stay on the way. His goal was to teach Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

If Jews convert to Jesus it would be out of the love they feel Jesus has for them and for His promise to eternal life.

Bishops must criticize bishops who stray from Jesus’ commission to baptize and teach all that Jesus did, when some bishops appear to be shills for the human rights commission or other worldly organizations whose principles go against the Holy Bible and Jesus Himself.

This only increases my faith that Jesus’ teaching is true, that the Catholic church has the fullness of faith for salvation.

The contentions in the church have always existed over the nature of God, the nature of Jesus, the nature of the Eucharist, and many other topics.

Sexual deviation has gained ascendancy, and now must be challenged by faithful Catholics of all rank against

the false proposals of those who want to be Catholic and also to misuse sexuality.

Love can only be true if those who are misusing their sexuality are told the truth and called back to chastity. Without truth, there is no love, and those who commit sin are not enemies, rather brothers who have strayed.