

Fr. Perozich comments —

People claim all sorts of things. Some use their own authority because of a diploma, degree, or position in church or society to give authority and demand credence to proclamation of their own thoughts rather than the truths revealed by God and those discovered in authentic science. They claim their thoughts are from the Spirit.

In Logic, there is an argument fallacy of appeal to authority wherein the speaker cites his argument as true because a person with power has said so, even if the power speaks against the truth, speaks in his own name or opinion, or speaks out of his area of expertise.

The president of the US does not know everything. He has power do do many things.

A pope knows what Jesus revealed and should proclaim it without alteration to make it known for people in his time.

Appealing to the authority of “the Spirit” draws most listeners to believe that it is the Holy Spirit of God.

Jesus told us in the John 14:26 “The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you.”

If an authority in 2024 teaches something not revealed by God in the Bible, it is not credible to me to think that God has withheld this new understanding for 2000 years, yet now is revealing it to His people to change their way of thinking about what God has revealed and what Holy Church has believed up to this time.

Certainly an appeal to “the Spirit” can be made to justify anything; but I doubt it is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity, rather another spirit who puts thoughts into the minds of men.

William Kilpatrick speaks of the gnostics, those who from the beginning thought they had superior knowledge over others. He shows how it has arisen now, and how those with authority in the world use “the Spirit” to proclaim what they wish to be true.

I’ll follow the Holy Catholic Church in Scripture and Tradition, knowing that the Holy Spirit teaches us everything that God has ALREADY revealed, and reminds us of what Jesus told us.

The Secret Religion of Our Elites Which Our Own Kids Are Joining: Gnosticism

Part 1 of a two-part series



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A detail from the infamous Voynich Manuscript, written in a secret language, purporting to reveal the mysteries of the cosmos.

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WILLIAM KILPATRICK April 15, 2024

A [2023 Gallup poll](#) found that the percentage of Americans who identify as **spiritual** rather than **religious** has increased. And among Democrats, more people now describe themselves as spiritual (41%) than as religious (37%). However, according to a survey by the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI), the most rapidly growing groups are atheists and agnostics, while the most rapidly declining groups are Catholics and mainline Protestants.

In [a review of the survey](#), Jonathan Van Maren wrote, “Post-Christian America is not post-spiritual America; **most still claim to hold vague spiritual beliefs of one sort or another** but reject ‘organized religion.’”

There’s nothing new here, of course. History records many attempts to move from organized religion (churches, creeds, pastors, practices) to more spiritual forms of connecting with God.

[The First Christian Heresy](#)

One of the earliest examples of this tendency was the **Gnostic** heresy which arose during the early years of Christianity. There were numerous Gnostic sects but most agreed that **matter is inherently evil and spirit is inherently good**. Consequently, most Gnostics believed that Jesus was not really human. In contrast to the Apostle John’s assertion that “the Word became flesh,” most Gnostics claimed that Jesus only appeared to be human.

In reaction, **Church fathers emphasized the essential goodness of the material world**. They pointed out that after creating the world, “God saw that it was good” (Gen. 1:25). Moreover, God then proceeded to make man in His own image, thus lifting him far above the status of other creatures.

Despite what the Gnostics claimed, Scripture proves that God loves His creation, and undertook to redeem man after he had fallen.

Gnosticism Is Back, and It's Winning

The Gnostic heresy may seem like ancient history, but it has a way of cropping up in different forms again and again. **The quest for a purely spiritual form of Christianity is a constant temptation.** And, arguably, we are experiencing a powerful resurgence of Gnosticism right now.

The Gallup and PRRI surveys provide some of the evidence. An increasing number of people are rejecting organized religion and are opting instead to develop **a more direct spiritual connection with God without the bother of institutional intermediaries.** As it happens, this quest fits in nicely with what one critic describes as Gnosticism's **“intuitive, subjective inward, emotional approach to truth.”**

The Gnostic faith also has the advantage of appealing to the woke generation's conviction that they are more enlightened than the rest of us. The ancient Gnostics (from the Greek word *gnosis*, meaning “to know”) claimed that salvation comes not through faith but through the acquisition of special and secret knowledge available only to elite souls. In short, they thought themselves superior to run-of-the-mill Christians who were incapable of understanding the “higher truth.”

The Cage of the Soul

Another area in which Gnostic belief corresponds with contemporary belief is in its **relegation of the body to second-class status.** Although our society is obsessed with the body beautiful, it seems little concerned with what we do with our bodies, beautiful or not. In other words, our bodily actions are

thought to be of far less significance than our spiritual state. Thus, **if you feel good about your inner, hidden self, it doesn't matter if you are promiscuous or if you decide to have an abortion.**

The ancient Gnostics held similar views. Because they thought that the body was part of the evil material world, some chastised it by abstaining from sex or by self-flagellation. And because they thought the body was relatively unimportant, other Gnostics were sexually promiscuous. Of course, our modern Gnostics tend to align more with the second group's belief that sex is no big deal.

We're Not "Breeders"

Another area of commonality between the new Gnostics and the old Gnostics is an **anti-reproductive sentiment**. The ancient Gnostics believed that by bringing babies into the world, they would only succeed in increasing the amount of evil in the world since babies, being part of the material world, are inherently evil.

Babies are no longer looked upon as evil except by some fringe feminist groups, but **many look upon them as an obstacle to self-growth** (which is the modern-day equivalent of spiritual growth). Significantly, [the PRRI survey](#) found that of those who had left organized religion, 47% specifically cited religious bias against LGBTQ people as one of the main reasons for their departure. That finding is significant because, except for the "B," LGBTQ sex is inherently non reproductive sex.

Our New Gods Are ... Ourselves

The more "spiritual" people become, the more they reject institutional Christianity, and the more they embrace unorthodox and unscriptural views. At the same

time, **this trajectory seems to end up — as it did for the Gnostics — in the development of an individualized and personalized faith which often substitutes worship of self for worship of God.**

Obviously, these elements in the Gnostic faith are self-defeating; and when combined with the reluctance to reproduce, they end in extinction. Thus, the only thing that keeps Gnosticism alive is evangelization. **Fortunately for the new Gnostics, the woke generation never ceases to evangelize.** Unfortunately for them, the new Gnosticism is a very exclusive club and only the highly enlightened are eligible to join. Moreover, **since the focus of Gnosticism is on the individual self, Gnostics tend to quickly lose interest in other selves.**

The seeds of destruction are firmly implanted in Gnosticism, but before the latest iteration of Gnosticism dies out, it can do enormous harm to Christianity. **Although it is only a counterfeit of Christianity, it looks enough like the genuine article to fool many into mistaking it for the real thing — or worse, fool them into thinking that it is a more highly evolved form of Christianity.**

Part 2.

Catholics and Protestants Slide Together into Gnostic Private Cults

The second of a two-part series.

*Equipping Christians to Think Clearly About the Political,
Economic and Moral Issues of Our Day.*

WILLIAM KILPATRICK April 16, 2024

Until recently, Protestants were more likely than Catholics to succumb to the Gnostic temptation I described in a recent column. In a 2008 article for *Modern Reformation*, Philip J. Lee described how both Mainline and “born again” Protestants were becoming more Gnostic, although in different ways.

Protestants on both the right and left, he observed, had become focused on private faith rather than public faith, on the invisible Church rather than the Church visible, and on a direct personal relationship with Jesus rather than one mediated through pastors, priests, or a faith community.

Moreover, said Lee, both branches of Protestantism, albeit in different ways, **emphasized the acquisition of special knowledge**. Thus, they were set apart from non-Christians because, like the Gnostics, **they knew things that others didn't**. Like conspiracy theorists, many evangelical Christians became addicted to the latest spiritual revelations circulating on the internet.

It's not that these “revelations” have no basis in history or Scripture, but that **they often have little connection to the basic Christian message — namely, that God became man at a specific time and place in history, went about teaching and healing, founded a Church, was crucified, rose from the tomb, and ascended to the Father.**

Jesus Is Too “Meaty.”
Can We Have Something Plant-Based Instead?

For Gnostics, however, the basic Christian story was too physical. Many of them insisted that Jesus, being purely spiritual,

only appeared to be human. In addition, many denied that Christ died on the cross (that was far too physical!). They taught, instead, that another person had died in His place.

As with the ancient Gnostics, so too with the modern variety. In 2003, a book based in large part on the Gnostic Gospels zoomed to the top of the bestseller lists and stayed there for a long time afterward. Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* attacked traditional Christianity (Catholicism in particular) for having suppressed the truth about the life of Jesus. **The truth, according to Gnostic teachings, is that Jesus was not divine, that he married Mary Magdalene, and that he avoided crucifixion, allowing someone else to die in his place.**

Because it echoed many feminist themes, *The Da Vinci Code* was understandably popular with feminists. Ironically, a great many non feminist Christians also swallowed Dan Brown's fake version of Christian history. A National Geographic survey revealed that 32% of Canadians (most of whom, we can assume, were Christians) who read *The Da Vinci Code* believed its theories were true.

In short, the poll strongly suggests that the Gnostic impulse had reemerged in North America.

Some Believers Push Back

Not that it hasn't been resisted. In reaction to the Gnostification of Protestantism that Lee wrote about, many Mainline and evangelical Protestants converted either to Catholicism or to Orthodoxy. Part of the attraction was that, unlike Protestants, Catholics and Orthodox paid a great deal of attention to the physical aspect of Christianity.

For example, Peter Gillquist, a prominent evangelical, popular speaker, and editor at Thomas Nelson Publishers,

converted to Orthodoxy and explained why in a book aptly titled The Physical Side of Being Spiritual.

Pope Francis Goes New Age

Ironically, as Gillquist and other evangelicals moved away from a purely spiritual form of Christianity, many prominent **Catholics were moving in the opposite direction. They weren't converting to Protestantism; rather, they were working to change the Catholic Church from within into something more adaptable to the spirit of the times.**

This “movement” culminated in what might be called the “Spirit-led” papacy of Francis. Francis seemed to believe that the old rules for guiding the Church — Scripture, tradition, councils — were no longer sufficient. Instead, **Church leaders had to learn to “listen to the Spirit” and “follow the Spirit.”** Consequently, numerous dialogues, conferences, and synods were convened to hash over issues that most Catholics thought had already been settled.

We have Christ's words in Scripture on topics such as marriage, divorce, gender (there are only two), the true Church (“Mine,” said Jesus), conversion (“make disciples of all nations”), and many other items of belief. His judgments are quite clear. Why then, one might ask, do we need to spend months (four years and counting in the case of the Synod on Synodality) trying to discern what the Holy Spirit wants us to do?

An End-Run Around the Scriptures

Some Protestants may have carried “me and Jesus” a bit too far. **There is always a danger that a highly personalized faith can become too private and too subjective.** But there were built-in limits on the subjectivism. If a born-again Christian

claims that “the Lord told me to found a spouse-swapping commune,” a hundred of his brothers will remind him that the Lord says no such thing in Scripture and that, judging from what He did say, it is highly unlikely that He would ever recommend such a course of action.

Unfortunately, many in the Catholic hierarchy seem to have substituted “me and the Holy Spirit” for “me and Jesus.” For those who are set on changing Church teaching, this approach has a clear advantage. It leaves open a great deal of room for interpretation and speculation. **It’s possible to check your notion of what Jesus wants of us against what He actually said as recorded in the Gospels.** By contrast, it’s not at all easy to double-check a private revelation from the Spirit. With the possible exception of a few ambiguous passages in the Book of Revelation, **the Bible contains no record of any spoken content uttered by the Holy Spirit.**

So, if bishop so-and-so claims that the Spirit wants us to develop a more inclusive and LGBT-friendly form of marriage, you can’t gainsay him by pointing to a verse in the Bible where the Spirit expresses His approval of traditional marriage. **Indeed, one can wonder if this is not the whole point of the current emphasis on following the Spirit. Does such advice reflect a genuine openness to the promptings of the Spirit, or is it simply a convenient way of following one’s own inclinations while falsely claiming the Spirit’s endorsement?** As with the Gnostics of old, it’s a good way of losing touch with the visible, Incarnational Church founded by Jesus.

It’s also a good reminder of our dependence on physical things for the nourishment of our souls. Keep that in mind the next time you pick up that hefty and very solid Bible lying on your desk.

William Kilpatrick is the author of several books about cultural and religious issues, including What Catholics Need to Know About Islam; Christianity, Islam and Atheism: The Struggle for the Soul of the West; The Politically Incorrect Guide to Jihad; and Why Johnny Can't Tell Right from Wrong.