

# Heroic Sanctity Always Wins



In May of 1983, Alexander Solzhenitsyn was awarded the *Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion*. This ceremony took place in London, England at which he gave a lecture which put into perspective what has befallen the Western world. Its message is plain, simple and down to earth. However, his words are precisely those that our elites deliberately close their ears to: “Men have forgotten God.”

He said, *“More than half a century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of older people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia (Communism): ‘Men have forgotten God; that’s why all this has happened’...And if I were called upon to identify briefly the principal trait of the entire twentieth century, here too I would be unable to find anything more precise and pithy than to repeat once again: ‘Men have forgotten God.’ The failings of human consciousness, deprived of its divine dimension, have been a determining factor in all the major crimes of this century.”*

The Marxism he describes here hasn’t died as so

many erroneously believed when Communism ended in Russia and Eastern Europe: it merely changed its outward appearance. Today it is known as “Cultural Marxism” and is the driving force in what can be called a war against God and Western Christian Civilization. Instead of emphasizing the economic issues, they focus on the cultural ones (e.g., abortion, LGBTQ agenda, ect.). What drives this agenda? Solzhenitsyn continues:

*“But the world has never before known a godlessness as organized, militarized, and tenaciously malevolent as that practiced by Marxism. Within the philosophical system of Marx and Lenin, and at the heart of their psychology, **hatred for God is the principal driving force, more fundamental than all their political***

***and economic pretensions.** (It’s this HATRED FOR GOD that drives the Culture of Death and the War on the Family). *Militant atheism is not merely incidental or marginal to Communist policy; it is not a side effect, but the central pivot. To achieve its diabolical ends, Communism needs to control a population devoid**

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*of religious and national feeling, and this entails the destruction of faith and nationhood. Communists proclaim both of these objectives openly, and just as openly go about carrying them out."*

Finally, he emphasizes an important point that should give us great concern (remember he said this back in 1983- look at today's reality). *"The West is ineluctably slipping toward the abyss. Western societies are losing more and more of their religious essence as they thoughtlessly yield up their younger generation to atheism...Atheist teachers in the West are bringing up a younger generation in a spirit of hatred of their own society."*

We are constantly presented with surveys stating that the younger generations (Millennials especially) are dropping out of the churches. No wonder. Families of little religious practice, a school system openly hostile to anything religious, a legal system enshrining Atheistic Humanism as the Law of the Land, and entertainment being used as the most effective propaganda to promote this hatred for God. Solzhenitsyn concludes by reminding us that we let all this happen and continue to do so well into the twenty-first century. Because of our obsession with being "relevant," "mainstreamed," "like everybody else" we allowed the salt of the Gospel to lose its flavor. And here lies the remedy:

Catholic apologist Dr. Peter Kreeft lays out what must be done: *"The strongest weapon in the world is sanctity. Nothing can defeat it...The deepest reason why the Church is weak and the world is dying is that **there are not enough saints**. No, that's not quite honest. The reason is that **WE** are not saints."*

What, me a saint? Impossible! Read the lives of the saints and you will find out that many felt exactly the same way originally. St. Augustine's life be-

fore his conversion needs no retelling. He had a past. The "experts" of today would have back then consider young Augustine "incurable." Yet look what happened. If he could become a saint, then anyone can. Look at the Apostles Jesus chose. Fishermen, a tax-collector, a political agitator, yet they conquered the Roman Empire. As Dr. Kreeft stated, *"Can you imagine what ten more Mother Teresas would do for this world? Or ten more John Wesley's? You can't imagine it. But you can do it. You can become a saint. Absolutely no one and nothing can stop you. It's your totally free choice."*

If anyone can become a saint, why aren't their more today? He quotes from the work *Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life* by William Law. *"If you will look into your own heart in utter honesty, you must admit that there is one and only one reason why you are not, even now, as saintly as the primitive Christians: **you do not wholly want to be.**"* What's

holding us back? FEAR. Fear of paying the price. What is the price? The answer is simple. T.S.

Elliot gave it when he defined the condition of being a Christian as costing everything.

The price is EVERYTHING YOU HAVE. Give Christ one hundred percent of your heart and life one hundred percent of the time, holding nothing back, absolutely nothing at all, anywhere, ever.

This is what the Christians of the first three hundred years of the Church's existence did in ancient Rome. From the book, *Phoenix From the Ashes: "Together with their doctrinal immobilism, another mark of the early Christians was their resistance to the moral ethos of their time (Rome's version of the Sexual Revolution). Christian commitment was a matter not merely of faith but of conduct. Every candidate for Baptism declared his renunciation of the world, his repudiation of paganism and its self-pleasing stan-*

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*dards...Adultery and divorce were thus utterly excluded... As to other practices, such as sodomy and infanticide – the ancient world’s substitute for abortion – it was not even imagined that Christians could contemplate such abominations. They adhered to the teaching laid down in the first days of their faith: ‘Religion clean and undefiled is to keep oneself unspotted from this world’ (James 1:27), and the injunction of St. Paul: ‘Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them, redeeming the time, because the days are evil’ (Eph. 5:11,16). Brought up in these doctrines, the Christians failed to move a step to meet the world halfway, so that in the fullness of time they found the world moving to them.”*

With the above, the Christians conquered Rome even though they were always outnumbered. Almighty God never works through majorities (sorry, the Kingdom of God is not a democracy), but always through faithful, fervent remnants.

We began with Russia (Solzhenitsyn) and we close with Russia. Sergei Kourdakov was a cadet in the So-

viet Naval Academy. He and several other fellow cadets were recruited by the KGB to break up the meeting of Christians. They were to so beat and mutilate the Christians that they would not come back to these prayer meetings. He went out several times a week and to his astonishment these Christians kept coming back despite the beatings. On one such occasion he spotted a very beautiful young woman that he later said that if it were under different circumstances, he would ask her for a date. He took her and so beat her that the skin literally came off her back and he threw her down unconscious on the floor. The next week, she was back. That’s why Communism fell in Russia. And that type of heroic sanctity will defeat Satan and his Culture of Death and War on the Family in our time. You can do it. Strive for sanctity.

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