

By  
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## Wandering

A German poet tells of this incident: In freezing, wintery weather and heavy mist, a daring rider once lost his way on snow covered fields. No light was to be seen near or far, no house, no living creature. At last, after riding for hours, he came upon a small hut. Wearily he asked the owner, “Where is Lake Constance? Is it far from here?”

“Where have you come from?” The man asked. “From that direction,” answered the rider and pointed behind him. “Then you rode right across the whole lake.”

The rider grew pale. It flashed into his mind that he had been wandering for hours in danger of his life, because at any moment the ice could have broken and the depths of the lake might have swallowed him and his horse. The thought of it caused him to have a heart attack, and he fell to the ground lifeless.

People thoughtlessly wander for years above the dreadful depths of sin and hell, and don’t know the great danger they’re in. They don’t worry until they hear the verdict of God about their future in eternity. People today seem obsessed with their physical health and take care of their bodies, but often neglect their souls by living in sin and refusing to go to confession and break with their sins. So they hurt their souls, making their quest for good health and longer life a feckless effort.

If we are to believe the surveys of Catholics by Pew Research Center and CARA, Catholics’ two most prominent mortal sins are artificial contraception (90+%) and viewing pornography (70% of Catholic men). Based on these figures and my own personal conversations with Catholics over the years, these folks do what they do because they disagree with Church teaching.

The people who contracept say they don’t agree that contraception is wrong, because they are achieving the same end result they would get if using Natural Family Planning (NFP) but without all the effort. If they really believe that, then they have bought into a lie right out of the bowels of hell. There are many arguments of scientific fact to dispute this belief, but that isn’t the point of this article. I’ll save the proofs for the evil of contraception for a future installment.

Men who view pornography, which is a grave violation of the sixth and ninth commandments, say they aren’t sinning because there is no sexual activity involved, and they use pornography as a means of helping them to better please their wives... or in many cases, sadly, their “significant other”. To any person not addicted to this evil vice, it’s easy to see that these men are just trying to justify their actions, because most people see pornography for what it is: the pervert’s pastime of private voyeurism. Again, this is not the point of this article, so I’ll not write about this now.

The point of this piece is that Catholics don't have the right or freedom to pick and choose what to believe or not believe on moral issues. It wasn't the Church that proclaimed contraception and pornography are wrong. It was God Himself who made that proclamation, and God doesn't change (Hebrews 13:8). Since God can't change, His laws can't change; they're eternal truths.

In order for one to claim to be Christian—Catholic or Protestant—there are ten tenets of faith that have to be accepted. Refusal to accept any one of those tenets makes the denier something other than Christian, which is why some popular religions claim to be Christian but are not accepted as such by Christianity as a whole (Mormonism & Jehovah's Witnesses). One of those tenets is belief in the Trinity; specifically that Jesus is God, the second Person of the Trinity.

Near the end of the God-Man's life on earth, He told Peter and the other apostles that they had the power and authority to decide what was good and what was bad in specific situations based on what they'd learned from Him (Matthew 16:18; 18:18). For example, we know that under certain conditions war is morally acceptable, and the Church can never say otherwise because God Himself permitted it. However, use of a nuclear weapon can never be used, because the Church (in exercising its authority) has declared that it's immoral to do so.

Jesus also said that the apostles and their successors (the bishops—the Church) are speaking for God Himself when they teach on matters of faith and morals (Luke 10:16, *et alia*). The *coup d' gras* is found in Mark 16:16 when Jesus said *we must accept everything* He teaches or be condemned to eternity in hell. Therefore, we don't have a right to pick and choose what to believe. Well, actually, we do have that right because of a little thing called free will, but choosing wrongly has the consequence of condemnation to hell.

Despite this, most Catholics still choose to be cafeteria Catholics. We can logically deduce this because 90% of Catholics, by their own admission, use contraception, yet present themselves for Communion every Sunday, piling on mortally sinful sacrilege after sacrilege. And confession lines are very short or non-existent! In fact, I know regular Mass attending Catholics who haven't been to confession for *years*—yet another mortal sin.

We do have free will. We can choose where we spend eternity. Unfortunately, it seems most Catholics have chosen to be like a man Jesus spoke about. The man said, "I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, '*Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?*'" (Luke 12:19-20).

Admittedly, most Catholics today really don't know what to believe, and it's not their fault. Catechesis was so watered down by Neo-Modernists who infiltrated the Church after Vatican II that Catholics have been cheated out of the fulness of divinely revealed truth for at least fifty years. What is the fault of Catholics is remaining in their catechetical ignorance. Well, I have a painless way to fix that for you. I offer a free email course and personal invitations to free weekly webinars for you. You can visit [JoeSixpackAnswers.com](http://JoeSixpackAnswers.com) to sign up. Please come and join us.

Also, Catholics these days really don't understand how to apply Catholic teaching to the everyday situations in their lives. I've got a remedy for that too. I have a new podcast that deals with daily life situations on everything from personal finance to politics. It's called *The Cantankerous Catholic*. You can access it for free at Apple Podcasts (formerly iTunes), Stitcher, or at [CantankerousCatholic.com](http://CantankerousCatholic.com).