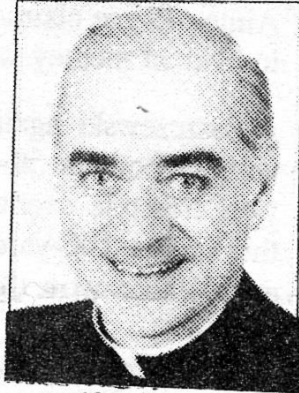


Trusting in Jesus

Jesus said, "Be not anxious ... return good for evil, love your enemies."

Do these teachings imply that we are supposed to put on a happy face no matter what? Are we to pretend we are happy even in times of economic depression and unemployment? Are we supposed to feel good when someone betrays or insults us?



No. You cannot force yourself to have good feelings. But you can learn to control your thoughts. By calming your mind, you can indirectly bring about a calming of your emotions.

Jesus Christ had a remedy for every problem. He didn't discuss the how's or wherefores to any great detail. He simply told us what to do, and he promised the fullness of joy to those who did what he asked.

He commanded us to love everyone, even our enemies, whether they deserved it or not, or and whether we felt like it or not. We may have to struggle to obey. We may have difficulty putting aside those dark thoughts, but we can always pray for the grace to return good for evil. We can always choose to love rather than hate.

How can one love an enemy? Wouldn't a person have every reason to doubt the wisdom of such advice. Yes, if you believe that wisdom depends on common sense. But it

doesn't. Wisdom always depends on the authority of the person speaking. To discern true wisdom you have to be certain that you are in the presence of God. When it comes to the words of Jesus, beware of doubt.

The 19th century Rationalists spread the seeds of doubt that have lived on for over a century. They insisted that nothing in Scripture can be accepted as true unless human reason is able to understand it first. This idea undermined the authority of Scripture, and created havoc among all Christian denominations.

The Catholic Church's First Vatican Council (1869-1870) was convened to say no to the thinking of the Rationalists. The Council Fathers asserted that Catholics believe in the revelation of Scripture not because of its truthfulness, as determined by the light of reason, but because of the authority of Jesus Christ. We trust the words of Jesus because he speaks the truth.

At the end of His public ministry Jesus said, "I have told you all these things that your joy may be full." (John 15:11)

And he continued ... "You may be sad now, but I shall see you again, and your hearts will be full of joy, and that joy no one shall take from you." (John 16:22)

Either you trust the Lord or you do not. There is no in between.

[For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, Say it with Love, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 E. 48th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.]

