

Knowing Our Faith

A survey released in October reported on the religious views of American Protestant Evangelicals. It found that the opinions held by a significant number of Evangelicals were not only at variance with the religious beliefs of their churches but also identical to heretical beliefs condemned by the early church in its ecumenical councils. The councils issued creeds, like the Nicene Creed we recite on Sunday, which defined orthodox Christian belief, both then and now. Virtually all Christians, even those who do not profess a creed, agree with the creed's substance. So why do so many Evangelicals hold heretical opinions? Protestants analyzing the results suggest that the problem is a failure of adult education rather than sincerely held heresies. In other words these Evangelicals are ignorant of what their church teaches.

Why should this concern us? It's a Protestant problem, isn't it? The Catholic Church professes and emphasizes the great Creeds. And we have the Catechism.

Well, it turns out to be our problem too. Recent religious surveys which included Catholics have indicated a similar level of ignorance among Catholics and Protestants, often sharing identical misunderstandings about Christ, the Trinity, salvation and the Bible. This reflects a general failure to spend time on religious education in a world too busy with what it feels are more important issues. As an example, most Christians have a better recall of the 32 teams of the NFL or the 30 teams of Major League Baseball than they do of the 10 Commandments or the 9 Beatitudes.

This is a particular problem for us as members of the Knights of Columbus. We identify ourselves as Knights. We are seen as strong supporters of our Church. Can we afford to be ignorant of its teachings? Our national organization does not think so and it recognized the problem a long time ago. The Knights of Columbus addressed the problem by sponsoring the production of religious education resources by the Catholic Information Service.

These resources are provided free on-line at the www.kofc.org website. They are located under the "Know Your Faith" tab and consist of three sets of clear, well written pamphlets: The New Evangelization Series, the Veritas Series, and the Luke E. Hart Series. The pamphlets cover over 65 different topics. They can be read online or downloaded as pdf files. Some can be downloaded as mp3 recordings. They are free as downloads but also can be obtained as hard copies for a nominal cost.

I suggest browsing the collection and downloading, from time to time, topics of interest. If we do this on a regular basis we can increase our knowledge of our faith as well as enrich the practice of our faith. You can do this at your own pace and when it is convenient for you. Obviously, Advent and Lent represent excellent times to start such an effort. A list of the topics covered follows.

S. Csontos, 9 December 2014.

Knights of Columbus “Know Your Faith” Resources

Direct Link: <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/cis/index.html>

The Booklets are presented as a block of images with links for viewing and downloading. Once you open a booklet you will see the title. The subjects treated in the three series are as follows:

New Evangelization Series:

- 401 -What is the New Evangelization
- 402 -"I Believe in You": The Question of God in the Modern World
- 403 -The Mysteries of the Life of Jesus
- 404 -A God Who is Threefold Love
- 405 -We Have Come to Adore Him: Intro to Prayer B XVI
- 406 -Called to Love: John Paul II's Theology of Human Love

Luke E. Hart Series:

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| 101 -Faith | 111 -Intro Liturgy | 121 -Morality |
| 102 -God | 112 -Sacraments | 122 -Human Nature |
| 103 -Creation | 113 -Baptism Confirm | 123 -Moral Princ |
| 104 -Human Person | 114 -Eucharist | 124 -Virtues, Vices |
| 105 -Jesus Christ | 115 -Penance | 125 - Command 1,2,&3 |
| 106 -Holy Spirit | 116 -Matrimony | 126 - Commandment 4 |
| 107 -Holy Church | 117 -Orders Anoint | 127 - Commandment 5 |
| 108 -Forgiving Sins | 118 -Prayer | 128 - Command 6 & 9 |
| 109 -Resurrection | 119 -Lord's Prayer | 129 - Command 7& 10 |
| 110 -Life Everlasting | 120 -Mary | 130 -Commandment 8 |

Veritas Series:

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| 300 -10 Commandments | 317 -Islam | 341 -Fatima |
| 303 -Angels | 319 -Rosary | 342 -Eastern Church |
| 304 -Prayer | 320 -Eucharist II | 348 -Creation |
| 306 -Does God Exist? | 321 -Genesis | 351 -Revelation |
| 307 -The Little Way | 324 -Mary | 358 -Christ |
| 309 -Prayer Time | 328 -St Joseph | 360 -Holy Spirit |
| 312 -Eucharist I | 329 -Women | 363 -Way of Cross |
| 313 -The Bible | 331 -Relativism | 371 -Catholic Terms |
| 314 -Sexual Ethics | 332 -Faith | 389 -New Millennium |
| 315 -God's Way | 335 -Early Church | |

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