



Agency for Evangelisation
and Catechesis
ARCHDIOCESE of SOUTHWARK

CONTEMPORARY CONCERNS

Catechist Day
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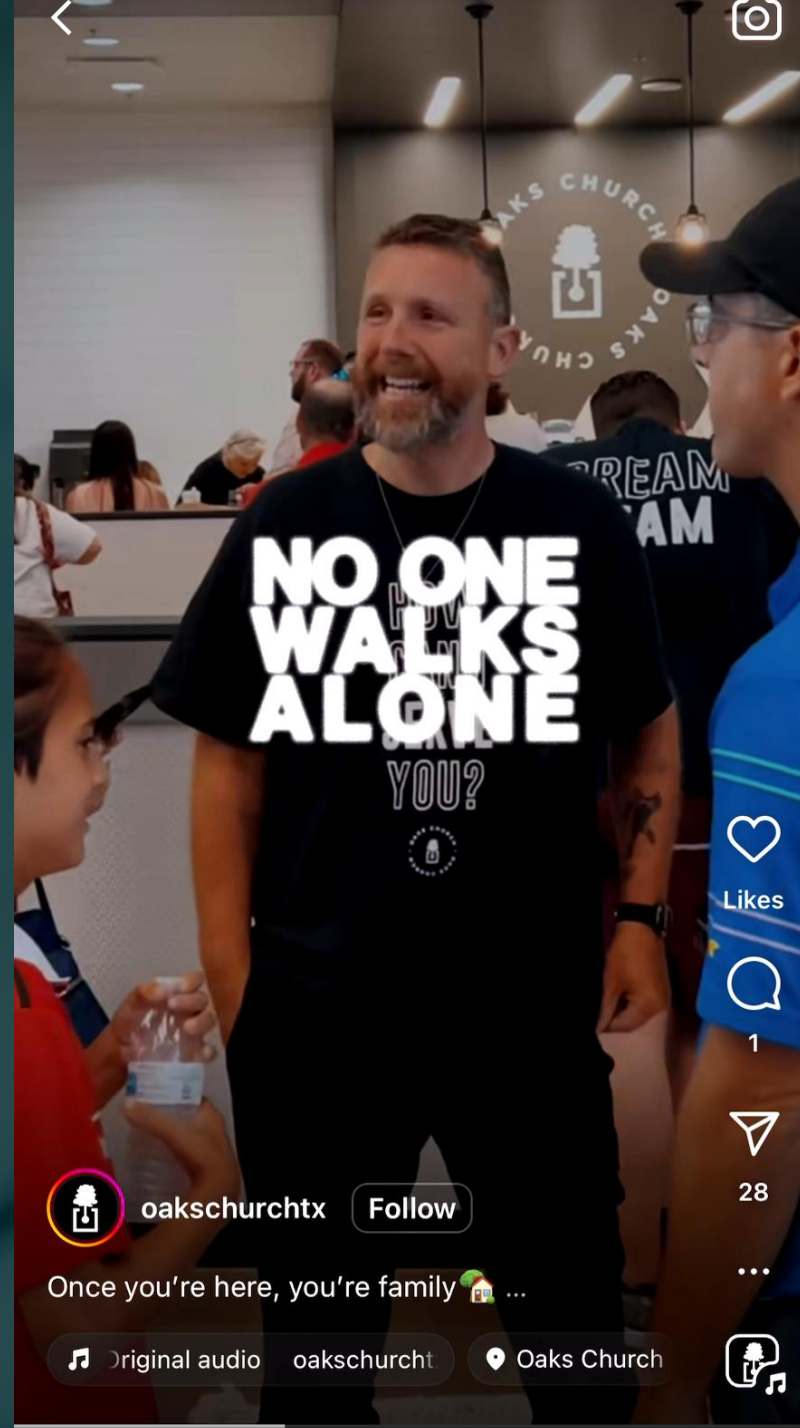


Overview

- Identity
- Sexuality
- Relativism
- Charity but clarity
- Prophetic listening
- Resources

The truth is ...

- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23
- Isaiah 43:16
- John 3:16



Identity

How do you identify? “Identity politics” has gotten a lot of play across the spectrum in recent years. While it may appear as if the human person is the recipient of an upheaval previously unseen, this is not a new question. At the outset of St. John Paul II’s *Man and Woman He Created Them*, the late Holy Father notes: *“The created man finds himself from the first moment of his existence before God in search of his own being, as it were ... today one would say, in search of his own ‘identity’”*

(Theology of the Body 5:5)



CCC on sexuality

"God created man in his own image . . . male and female he created them" (2331, Gen 1:27).

"*Sexuality* affects all aspects of the human person in the unity of his body and soul. It especially concerns affectivity, the capacity to love and to procreate, and in a more general way the aptitude for forming bonds of communion with others" (2332).

"Everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his *sexual identity*. Physical, moral, and spiritual *difference* and *complementarity* are oriented toward the goods of marriage and the flourishing of family life. The harmony of the couple and of society depends in part on the way in which the complementarity, needs, and mutual support between the sexes are lived out" (2333).

CCC on chastity

"Chastity means the successful integration of sexuality within the person and thus the inner unity of man in his bodily and spiritual being. Sexuality, in which man's belonging to the bodily and biological world is expressed, becomes personal and truly human when it is integrated into the relationship of one person to another, in the complete and lifelong mutual gift of a man and a woman.

The virtue of chastity therefore involves the integrity of the person and the integrality of the gift" (2337).

Offenses against chastity:

Lust, masturbation, fornication, pornography, prostitution and rape (2351-2356).

CCC on homosexuality

"Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex. It has taken a great variety of forms through the centuries and in different cultures. Its psychological genesis remains largely unexplained. Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity,* tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered."** They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved" (2357).

**Gen* 19:1–29; *Rom* 1:24–27; *1 Cor* 6:10; *1 Tim* 1:10.

**CDF, *Persona Humana* 8.

CCC on homosexuality

"The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. This inclination, which is objectively disordered, constitutes for most of them a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition" (2358).

"Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection" (2359).



Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

Heinrich Hofmann 1893

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- “We are building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognise anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires” (Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, 2005).
- Moral relativism usually includes three claims: that morality is 1. changeable; 2. subjective; and 3. individual (Peter Kreeft).
- Feelings over facts
- Subjective over objective
- Anecdotal over empirical
- Your truth, my truth; there is no truth
- John 14:6

Relativism



“True knowledge of and communion with the living God thus remains the best means of overcoming dictatorships, whatever their forms”

Pope Benedict XVI

What to do?

“The Christian vision of anthropology sees sexuality as a fundamental component of one’s personhood” (CCE 4, 2019).

Methodology of *listening, reasoning* and *proposing* (CCE 5, 2019).

- Confusion and brokenness
- Charity with clarity



Intentional accompaniment

- Intentionally walking alongside others on their journey towards conversion
- While seeking the Lord's direction through prophetic listening
- And remaining alongside them after conversion as they begin the lifelong journey of missionary discipleship

Intentional Accompaniment:

An apprenticeship for a new generation of builders

(Michael Hall) 





"I think that among the answers Christ would give to the people of our times and to their questions, often so impatient, fundamental would still be the one he gave to the Pharisees. In answering these questions, Christ would appeal first of all to the 'beginning.'"

| St. John Paul II |

Sometimes
you need
to go back
to go
forward

ORIGINAL LONGING

The first experience of the human person is solitude before God.

ORIGINAL INTEGRITY

We are an integral unity of body and soul, originally intended for harmony within ourselves.

ORIGINAL COMMUNITY

Deep bonds of family were intended by God from the beginning.

ORIGINAL CHOICE

We are always free to choose, but our choices have consequences.



♪ Highlands (Song of Ascent)

“So I will praise You on the mountain,
And I will praise You when the mountain’s in my way,
You’re the summit where my feet are,
So I will praise You in the valleys all the same,
No less God within the shadows,
No less faithful when the night leads me astray,
You’re the heaven where my heart is,
In the highlands and the heartache all the same”

Act

Think of 1 person right now that needs prayers and is struggling with the things we heard about today. Declare healing and breakthrough.

Commit to a decade of the rosary for this person ending next week Saturday.

Send them a message ask them how they're doing.

**“.. for the testimony of Jesus is the
spirit of prophecy”**

Revelation 19:10 b

