

Obedience to Priests

The following quotes from Catholic sources show that Catholics are taught to blindly obey their priests.

- ! "There is only one remedy for this evil (a troubled conscience, DJR), and that remedy is absolute and blind obedience to a prudent director. Choose one, consult him as often as you desire, but do not leave him for another. Then submit punctiliously to his direction. His conscience must be yours for the time being. And if you should err in following him, God will hold him, and not you responsible." (**Explanations of Catholic Morals**, p. 24).
- ! "God designs to make prelates, His own equals...If then you receive a command of one who holds the place of God, you should observe it with the same diligence as if it came from God Himself." (**True spouse of Christ**, p. 93).
- ! "Obey blindly, that is, without asking reasons. Be careful then, never to examine the directions of your confessor...In a word, keep before your eyes this great rule, that in obeying your confessor you obey God. Force yourself, then, to obey him in spite of all fears. And be persuaded that if you are not obedient to him it will be impossible for you to go on well; but if you obey him you are secure. But you say, I am damned in consequence of obeying my confessor, who will rescue me from hell? What you say is impossible." (Ibid., p. 352).

Hence, the Catholic Church requires implicit obedience to its priests maintaining that if a priest should err in his guidance, he only is held responsible and not those mislead. Speaking of false teachers, Jesus said, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. Let them alone; they are blind guides of blind men. But if a blind man guide a blind man, both fall into a pit." (Matt. 15:13-14). Peter said, "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29). We are taught in the Scriptures that each person is responsible for himself. He is to use all care to present himself approved unto God (2 Tim. 2:15), and must personally seek to understand the will of the Lord (Eph. 5:17). He should strive to make his calling and election sure (2 Pet. 1:10), test all things (1 Thess. 5:21), and examine every teacher (1 John 4:1). No one else can do these things for us; each will be held responsible for himself. "Therefore every one of us will render an account for himself to God." (Rom. 14:12). As shown in the following, the Bible repeatedly warns against following men:

- ! "I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not his: neither is it in a man to walk, and to direct his steps." (Jer. 10:23).
- ! "Sometimes a way seems right to a man, but the end of it leads to death." (Prov. 16:25).
- ! "See to it that no one deceives you by philosophy and vain deceit, according to human traditions, according to the elements of the world and not according to Christ." (Col. 2:8).
- ! "And in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men." (Matt. 15:9).
- ! "For God is true, and every man is a liar..." (Rom. 3:4).
- ! "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:15).

Consequently, the following of man will condemn the soul. Only by following God as revealed in the