

Yes or No?



Let what you say
be simply
'Yes' or 'No'
(Matthew 5:37)

At any moment in time we can be presented with numerous decisions that can cause and create great change. Some choices are easy to make, they are black and white and a quick yes or no will suffice. Some decisions are much harder and the consequences much greater. In this instance, we are required to delve into our own conscience and to be challenged by lively debate and honest and respectful interactions with opposing views to truly know where we stand on these important issues.

Through our faith we are assisted by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, aided by the witness or advice of others and guided by the authoritative teaching of the Church. (CCC #1785)

When we speak our truth we may be condemned for having a Catholic bias or a religious bent. We may be condemned simply because our view has opposition. These are not the times to sit on the fence, nor fall into a state of apathy. Instead, we must be able to support our claims with sound reasoning, research and evidence. Facts, figures and comments must come from authorities on both sides of the argument. When you consider and

counteract opposing arguments, you strengthen your own argument.

In *The Quality of Mercy*, Anne Burke wrote, "Jesus took on the law! He didn't condemn it; he merely exposed it and the truth became his penalty". She was referring to the Gospel story of John 8:10 where John "reveals the person of God in Jesus as the One who forgives, who longs for reconciliation, who is without condemnation. Jesus was not against the law; he was against an interpretation of the law that imprisoned the hearts and minds of people".

Joyce Rupp, in her book *God's Enduring Presence*, turns to God to ease the struggle of decision making:

"Whenever we meet with confusion in our personal lives, we can follow the example of Jesus. Like him, we do not figure out answers to our concerns by ourselves. We take them to prayer and ponder them at length. We listen to our inner Wisdom and to the good judgement of others. Then we collect our courage and do what is required for our spiritual growth".

REFLECTION

- > Do you struggle to make decisions for fear of hurting someone's feelings?
- > Do you worry that your decisions do not take into account your moral conscience because the noise of the world drowns out the Word of God?
- > Can you think of a time when you prayed for a clear response to a challenging choice?