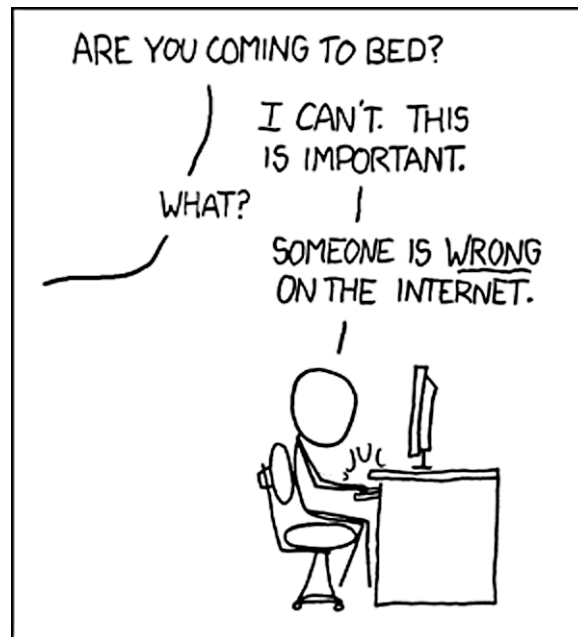


CATHOLIC BLOGGERS:
ARE WE THE 1ST CORINTHIANS OF THE INTERNET?
Supplemental Materials

IT'S FUNNY BECAUSE IT'S TRUE



Shared with the kind permission of xkcd
(xkcd.com)

TERTULLIAN'S "APOLOGY", CHAPTER 39.7 (CIRCA 200AD)

Full quote, in which Tertullian is describing how outsiders see the Christians, is as follows:

"Look," they say, "how they love one another" (for they themselves hate one another); "and how they are ready to die for each other" (for they themselves are readier to kill each other).

JULIE DAVIS

Blogs: Happy Catholic • Happy Catholics' Bookshelf • Meanwhile, Back in the Kitchen
Podcasts: Forgotten Classics • A Good Story is Hard to Find
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1ST CORINTHIANS UPDATED

Imagine that in a dream one night you find yourself in a parish where there are several drunks at Sunday Mass; where some members are claiming that there is no resurrection of the dead and that Jesus is not really present in the Eucharist; the parishioners are divided into cliques and factions; the president of the Altar Society is not talking to the head catechist; there is public unchallenged adultery and many marriages are in disarray; a group is dabbling in New Age spirituality; the liberals, the charismatics, and the traditionalists are all trumpeting their version of the church; and Masses are abbreviated for the sake of Sunday football—one of the many signs the parish has compromised heavily with the surrounding secular culture.

George Montague, First Corinthians (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture)

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

One of the scribes, when he came forward and heard them disputing and saw how well [Jesus] had answered them, asked him, “Which is the first of all the commandments?”

Jesus replied, “The first is this: ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone!

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:28-31

...You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:18

R.S. MCNAMARA'S ELEVEN LESSONS OF WAR

Not used in the talk but made me think about the nature of lists, which took me to the 10 Commandments. Obviously, not all of these are good guidelines for Catholics, but they are thought provoking. From the documentary *The Fog of War*, which I highly recommend.

1. Empathize with your enemy
2. Rationality will not save us
3. There's something beyond one's self

continued on next page

CATHOLIC BLOGGERS:
ARE WE THE 1ST CORINTHIANS OF THE INTERNET?

Supplemental Materials

4. Maximize efficiency
5. Proportionality should be a guideline in war
6. Get the data
7. Belief and seeing are often both wrong
8. Be prepared to re-examine your reasoning
9. In order to do good, you may have to engage in evil
10. Never say never
11. You can't change human nature

GOLDEN RULE FOR BLOGGERS

Keep your eyes on Christ always and never blog without prayer.

11 RULES FOR BLOGGERS

1. REMEMBER CHRIST CHOSE YOU.

Pat Gohn: Among Women — podcast (amongwomenpodcast.patgoth.net); blog (<http://AmongWomenPodcast.blogspot.com/>)

B-Movie Catechism: b-moviecat.blogspot.com

Idle Speculations: idlespeculations-terryprest.blogspot.com

Those words whispered at the proper time into the ear of your wavering friend; that helpful conversation you manage to start at the right moment; the ready advice that improves his studies; and the discreet indiscretion by which you open for him unsuspected horizons for his zeal—all that is the “apostolate of friendship”

Josemaría Escrivá, The Way, 973

We do not convince others by telling them loudly how wrong they are and how right we are. We convince them by showing them a light so lovely they will want with all their hearts to know the source.

Madeleine L'Engle

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Supplemental Materials

2. KNOW WHEN TO PUT ON THE BRAKES

3. THE ENEMY IS PROWLING LIKE A LION

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you.

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you.

1 Peter 5:5-10 RSV

4. TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also ... You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Matt. 5:38-39, 43-44

5. LORD, HAVE MERCY ON ME AND BLESS THE OTHER PERSON

There is no artist who does not like his work praised, and the Divine Artist of souls is pleased when we do not stop at the exterior, but penetrating even to the inmost sanctuary which He has chosen for His dwelling, we admire its beauty.

St. Therese of Lisieux, Story of A Soul

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Supplemental Materials

6. KNOW HOW TO GAUGE SUCCESS

I was recently reading the Fifth Chapter of Matthew with a Jewish Rabbi. At almost every sentence the Rabbi said, "That is in the Jewish Canon. That is in the Talmud", and he pointed out to me in the Old Testament and the Talmud dicta very similar to the dicta of the Sermon on the Mount. But when we came to the verse about non-resistance to him that is evil he did not say, "And that is in the Talmud", but only ironically asked me: "Do the Christians fulfill that? Do they turn the other cheek?" I had no reply, especially as I knew that at that very time Christians were not only not turning the other cheek, but were striking cheeks the Jews had turned. But I was interested to know whether there was anything similar in the Old Testament or in the Talmud, and I asked him about this. He replied: "No, it is not there. But tell me whether the Christians fulfill this law." By this question he showed me that the presence of this rule in the Christian law, which not only is not performed by anyone, but which Christians themselves admit to be impracticable, is an admission of the irrationality and superfluity of the Christian law. And I had no reply to give him.

Leo Tolstoy, What I Believe

THE LITANY OF BLOG HUMILITY

by Jeff Miller, The Curt Jester

From the desire of my blog being read

Deliver me dear Jesus

From the desire of my blog being praised

Deliver me dear Jesus

From the fear of my blog being despised

Deliver me dear Jesus

From the fear of my blog being forgotten

Deliver me dear Jesus

From the fear of no page views

Deliver me dear Jesus

That other blogs may be loved more than mine

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it

That Nihil Obstat* may find all my grammatical and spelling errors

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it

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Supplemental Materials

That Google may never list my blog
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it

That comments always be negative and abusive
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it

That my commenting system always say “commenting
temporarily unavailable”
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it

That Mark Shea may notice every blog but mine
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it

That others may be pithier than I, provided that I may become
as pithy as I should
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it

*Nihil Obstat was another early Catholic blogger who corrected the grammatical
mistakes on Catholic blogs until his anonymity was accidentally compromised

7. DO SOMETHING FACE-TO-FACE

Jennifer Fulwiler: Conversion Diary blog (<http://www.conversiondiary.com/>)

8. GET OUTSIDE YOUR “CATHOLIC” BOX

9. APOLOGIZE

10. ALLOW YOURSELF TO LOSE

One time I was talking to Canon Tallis, who is my spiritual director as well as my friend, and I was deeply grieved about something, and I kept telling him how woefully I had failed someone I loved, failed totally, otherwise that person couldn't have done the wrong that was so destructive. Finally he looked at me and said calmly, “Who are you to think you're better than our Lord? After all, he was singularly unsuccessful with a good many people.”

That remark, made to me many years ago, has stood me in good stead, time and again. I have to try, but I do not have to succeed. Following Christ has nothing to do with success as the world sees success. It has to do with love.

Madeleine L'Engle, Walking on Water

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ARE WE THE 1ST CORINTHIANS OF THE INTERNET?
Supplemental Materials

11. GOD GRANTS THE INCREASE

3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they had not much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6 but when the sun rose they were scorched; and since they had no root they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell upon thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears, let him hear."

Matthew 13:3-9

18 "Hear then the parable of the sower. 19 When any one hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart; this is what was sown along the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the delight in riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is he who hears the word and understands it; he indeed bears fruit, and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Matthew 13:18-23