

The Stinking Thinking of the Pontifical Pontifications

From the front page of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (April 18, 2003) - - "Pope John Paul II issued a stern reminder to Roman Catholics that those who divorce and remarry cannot receive Holy Communion and warned against taking Holy Communion in outside churches, saying: 'It is my hope that the present encyclical letter will effectively help to banish the dark clouds of unacceptable doctrine and practice.'"

First of all this commentary is not about "Catholic bashing" - - God knows they do a good enough job of that on their own!

What this commentary is about is how the Christian community, specifically the Roman Catholic Church and other groups with similar doctrines and practices have stolen the Eucharist from the people and claimed it as their own - - the sole property of the church.

It has such a simple and beautiful beginning. The gospels all agree that Jesus' invited all of us with these graceful words - - "as often as you do this, do it in remembrance of me."

No rules, no restrictions, no one denied access - - that was Jesus' way. A graceful invitation to a world of people in need of a Savior.

Who has the authority to deny access to the Lord's table? It is the Lord who invites. Where does the church get the authority to deny anyone access?

I am writing this commentary on the Sabbath before Easter morning. Jesus did not die on a rude cross at the town dump of Jerusalem for "The Church" - He was the perfect sacrificial lamb for the sins of all humankind. He died for all.

Even the head of the Roman Catholic church does have authority to deny anyone access the Lord's table! Those are indeed "dark clouds"!

That is the "Stinking Thinking" of the Pontifical Pontifications.

Luke 22:13-20: "So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me ." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

A Jim Lane Commentary
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