

# St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

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**Traditionally Speaking** by S. Casarotto, CS 5/31/09

## The Inclusive Jesus

Our democratic principles lead us to believe that truth is only what people decide. Everybody is right just because he thinks he is right. Strangely, it seems that today every opinion and lifestyle is and must be respected, except Christianity.

“Jesus loves everybody! The Church can not be exclusive!” is the mantra we hear in our liberalistic society. Yes, Jesus loved everyone, but not the same way. At the well (Jn. 4,16), He was not afraid to remind the Samaritan woman of what she had done, i.e. her immoral life. There had been several men in her life and the one she was living with was not her husband. John the Baptist condemned publicly the adulterous life of King Herod who wanted to silence him and eventually beheaded him. Jesus was familiar with the ruthless behavior of that “fox” (Lk. 13. 31).

True, Jesus said to leave the final judgment to God and to not rush to conclusions. He said “*Do not judge and you will not be judged!*” Only God knows the heart of man. But He does know it and does not condone evil thoughts and desires of violence, impurity and greed.

On Judgment Day, “*liber scriptum proferetur in quo totum continetur*”: the book of life will be open. Everything is written in it. Only those properly dressed will be admitted to the heavenly banquet. The others will go to eternal damnation.

Life would not make sense, if at the end everybody, the just and the unjust were treated in the same way. Right and wrong can not simply be a matter of opinion. St. Augustine reminds us that “Right is right even if nobody does it and wrong is wrong even if everybody does it.” He taught his newly baptized: “Next to the cross of Jesus there were two people: one was saved, do not despair; the other was not, do not presume!” (*St. Augustine*) Deus non irridetur! We can not fool God!

Pope Benedict XVI warned about the threats of “spiritual individualism”, i.e. a spirituality which is not based on the objective moral order and on the Revelation.

At Miletus, St. Paul addressed the leaders of the Church of Ephesus and said: “*Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the Church of God that He acquired with his own blood. I know that after my departure sa-vage wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock. And from your own group, men will come forward perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them. Be vigilant.*” (Acts 20, 28f)

Who needs a Church that goes with the wind of changing popular opinions?

The US Constitution has been amended 27 times (an average of once every 8 years) and the Cali-fornia Constitution has been amended about 500 times (an average of three times a year)! But the 10 Commandments and the Gospel were never amended. Jesus said “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word will never pass away!*” We’ve better believe it!