

Want To Die Forever? That's the World We Exist In, If the Truth is Faced

Eternal Death

When Pope John Paul II spoke of “the culture of death”, he was not simply referring, I believe, to abortion and euthanasia, but to the whole ethos of materialism and amorality that is a necessary product of the atheism which, in our present society, is so widely and strongly advocated. Atheism is the very root and origin of the culture of death because it involves intentionally turning one's back on the only real life of which humans may become capable – the renewed, recreated life which Jesus's saving act promises us, if we choose to accept it (when the Lord offered “life and life more abundantly” (John 10, 10) he was not simply offering, I consider, more, or a more tolerable/acceptable/pleasanter version, of that which we currently have; but rather, something totally other). To turn our back on the life-made-new means inevitably accepting this-life-only values, and that means the de-valuing of humans *individually* - the valuing of *each person for their own sake* - and the adoption, instead, of some kind of humanistic valuing of the capable, the gifted, the creative, the physically/mentally sound, those possessing riches of some kind – and those people only. If this life/world is all there is, then all has to be valued against a purely-this-worldly standard, a standard by which most people are rendered of *no* value, and individual life of no worth. Inevitably, in such a world, the not-yet-born, the old and “useless”, and the destitute, can be disposed of at will, since what contribution can they make to life, the world, and – the biggest lie of all – “human progress”? But – in this world-view - even the rest, those remaining, can only look to a few short years which are ultimately pointless and purposeless, where accident and tragedy strike most, at some time, and can only be relieved by existence's end. The culture of death – which most of us, in the West, live within – is chilling indeed.

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