

## EXCUSES USED BY CATHOLICS

Whenever you don't agree with something the church teaches, are you sure you're being honest and not just using excuses, or could it be Satan urging you to think in this way to help you lose your eternal soul?

How often do we hear comments by Catholics such as "I don't agree with that because things have changed, and the church hasn't kept up with the times"? There are things within the church that can change and will change with the times, but never the ones told to us by Jesus Christ or some that are true no matter what period we're in.

In simple terms, we cannot and should not change things initiated or agreed to by Jesus Christ, as his wisdom is infinite. Human beings, on the other hand, are far from perfect and can be susceptible to Satan's efforts to make us believe in our excuses.

What the church initiated can be changed and is when and if necessary. We see the church making changes every year to bring things up to date. A spectacular one was the change to the mass, from a global LATIN version to one that used the local language.

Whenever we disagree with anything in the Catholic Church, we should first determine whether it is something that Jesus initiated or agreed with, such as the seven sacraments.

Some people like to believe that some of these are no longer necessary, such as Confession, which Jesus Christ instituted. Still, we should never forget that it's the only time that sceptical human beings know for sure that God has forgiven their sins. Getting people to ignore this Sacrament must be a significant target of Satan's.

Another major excuse is people not going to mass at least once a week. They argue that modern life is such a busy one, that finding time to go to mass can be difficult.

Is taking their children to football classes more important than the eternal soul of their children? Do they prefer to look good in front of their non-Catholic friends rather than help their children know and understand the Catholic faith? Is the game of golf more important than their eternal souls? Satan is always very busy with all these excuses. All these are tiny lifetime things, but our souls are for ETERNITY

Remember, the church's overall ambition is to help people make sure that their souls get to be with God in heaven for all eternity when they die. Satan's is to make sure a person's soul gets to Hell for all eternity when they die. Be very wary that the things you disagree with are not just excuses.

Other names for the fallen angel Satan are The Evil Spirit, The Devil, Old-Nick, Beelzebub, and others. The one thing we do know about Satan, whatever he's called, is that he is obsessed with acquiring the souls of mankind by showing and urging them how to offend God.

He's intelligent, persuasive, and relentless in his pursuit of all souls. He uses whatever he thinks is the most appropriate for his quest. As we've seen, a major one is helping people come up with excuses for not believing in some things the church teaches.

Another of the greatest threats from Satan was described very clearly in that great gangster film 'The Usual Suspects'. There's a discussion about the possibility of a particular fearsome gangster not existing. When asked if this could be possible, one of the men responds by saying:

**“The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled was convincing the world that he didn't exist”.**

Today, many people believe that the Devil doesn't exist, and it's this kind of belief that is making Satan's work easy. The greatest proof that he exists is in the casting out of 'evil spirits' from possessed people. There's real evidence **from thousands** of such cases that have been **witnessed and documented** throughout the ages, making Satan a reality.

Watch out for Satan; he exists and **tirelessly tries to persuade us to sin every day** of our lives in many ways. As we've already seen, a major one is persuading us to use excuses for not believing in some of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Never forget that we do have two great weapons in our arsenal to help us overcome all of Satan's temptations: the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

**Go to these sacraments regularly to make sure that Satan doesn't stand a chance of winning your eternal soul.**