

20181021 Trinity 21 The World Today and the Church

- To the cult of those who believe they are like gods, the Church opposes with the faith and worship of the God-made-man.
- To the absence of God in the world, - the Church opposes with His Real Presence on the Altar.
- To the dullness and desolation of evil, the Church opposes with the wondrous life-giving Cross.
- To the sacrificial machinery of commerce, putting profit ahead of lives, the Church opposes with the one liberating Sacrifice of Calvary.
- To the empire of the Prince of this world, the Church opposes with power of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- To ineffectual excuses of humanistic dreams, the Church opposes with her potent Sacraments of life and death.
- To the hollow monotony of materialism, the Church opposes the adoration and vigilance of hosts of angels and saints, each with its own voice of praise.
- To navel-gazing of self, the Church opposes the only human beings who are fully real: the saints.
- To the worship of 'I did it my way', the Church opposes with the service of charity.
- To the obsession with long range planning and activity, the Church opposes the incomprehensible power of resting at the feet of Christ – and the fruitfulness of a Tradition of the centuries.
- To incessant and instant communication, the Church opposes with timeless communion.
- To the stifling self-limitations of modern art, the Church opposes the grandeur and creativity of the arts she has nurtured in history.
- To the noise of the modern world, the Church opposes the still, small voice of God.
- To the cacophony of amplified sound, the Church opposes with the tranquil silence of her prayer.
- To barrage of empty words and shifting values of advertising, business, and politicians, the Church opposes with the One who is the Word of Truth and Eternity - and the one constant set of signs.
- To pursuit of pleasures and wealth that end in worms, the Church opposes with the flight of contemplation and the glory of resurrection.
- To the deathly tedium of life without God, the Church opposes with being lost in Christ and found by Him.

The mission of the Church is not to follow the latest values and correctness of the world but those of our Lord. Indeed, we may have to be like him in being out of step with the shifting world we live in. To be like Christ is to be permanently united to him. This, in turn, may prompt us to realise that the Church is smaller, more scattered, more of a remnant than perhaps we have been accustomed to thinking before. Indeed, the faith of Christian Church makes it the most persecuted religion in the world. Its values and world view make dictators of all persuasions resent its existence. We now see that resentment in our nation.