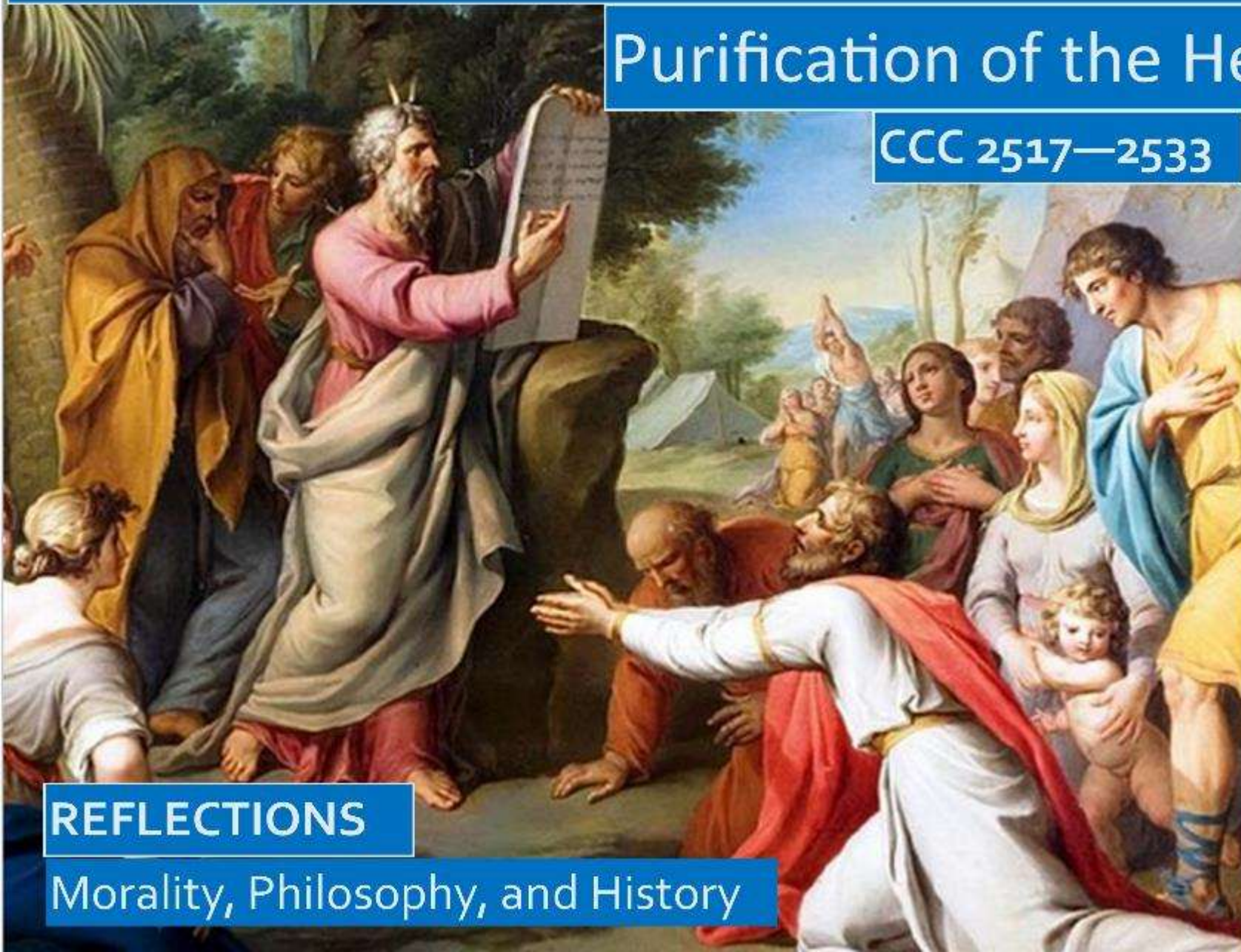


# Do Not Covet, Catholic Catechism & Church Fathers

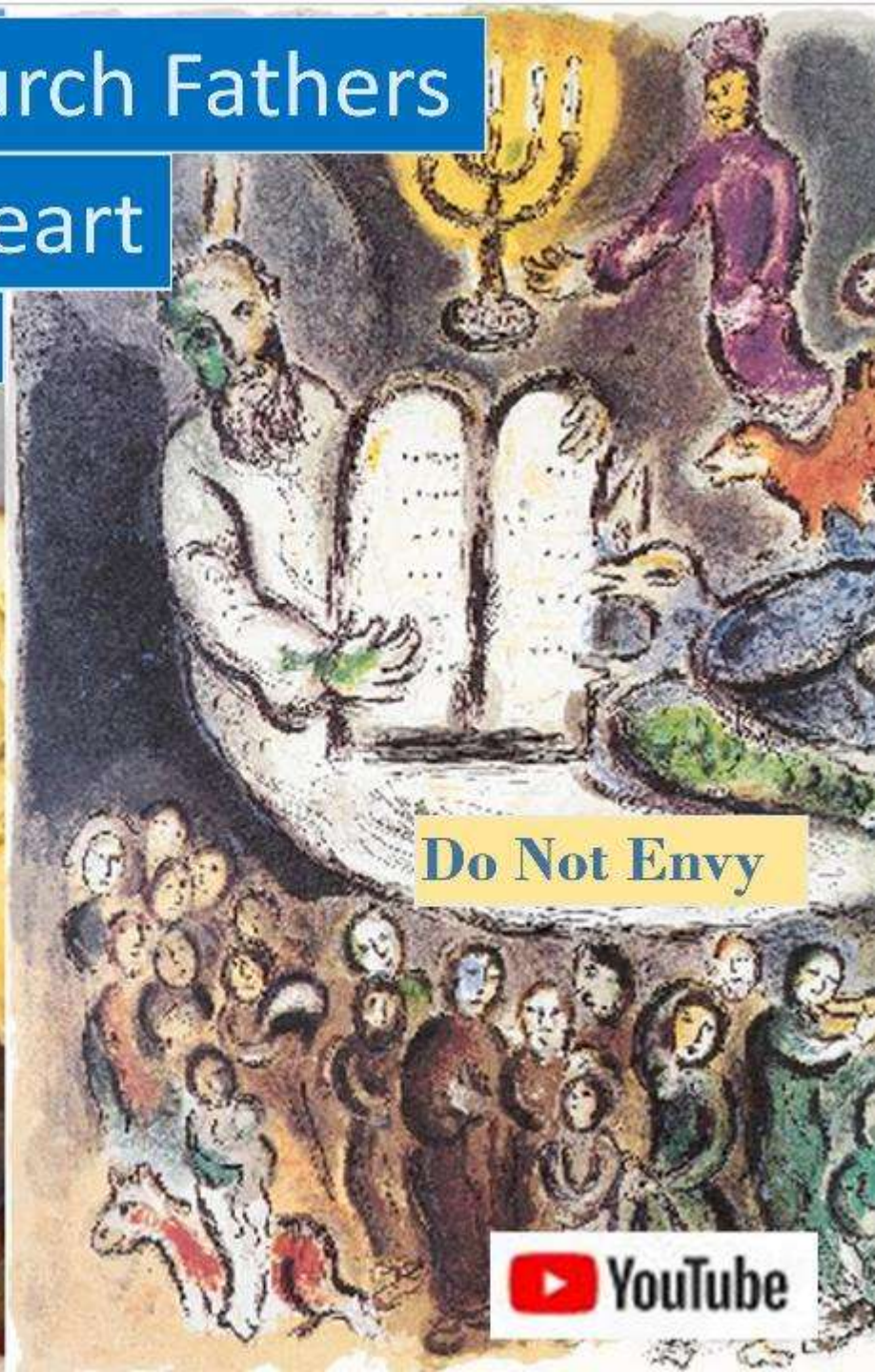
## Purification of the Heart

CCC 2517—2533



REFLECTIONS

Morality, Philosophy, and History



Do Not Envy

 YouTube

Today we will learn and reflect on the Tenth Commandment,  
**DO NOT COVET, or DO NOT ENVY.**

The Catholic Catechetical tradition splits the command, Thou Shalt Not Covet, into a commandment against coveting your neighbor's wife, concupiscence, and a commandment against coveting your neighbor's possessions. This will be the second video discussing the dangers of coveting your neighbor's wife.



The Catechism is not just for Catholics, the catechism is for everyone.

At the end of our talk, we will discuss the sources used for this video, and my blogs that also cover this topic. Please, we welcome interesting questions in the comments. Let us learn and reflect together!



# CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

SECOND EDITION

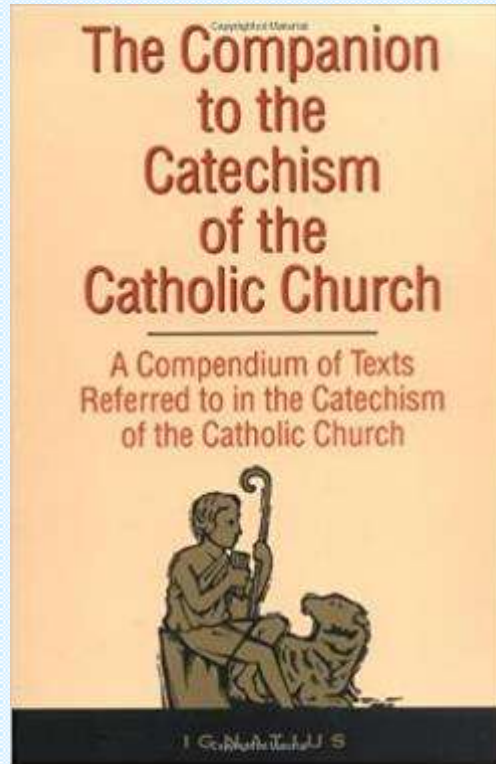
*Revised in accordance with the official Latin text  
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*Includes revision of paragraph no. 2267  
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YouTube Video:



Do Not Envy and Concupiscence,  
Catholic Catechism, CCC 2217 - 2233

[https://youtu.be/v\\_BmOU1VcHQ](https://youtu.be/v_BmOU1VcHQ)

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The next two sections of the review of the Ninth Commandment is on Purification of the Heart and the Battle for Purity.

The first section references the Shepherd of Hermas, an Apostolic church writing that many ancient churches included in their canon. Hermas was a Christian who was born a slave, who preached a simple Christianity lived from the heart, and he emphasized that that generosity and the giving of alms can prevent the sin of envy from growing in your heart.

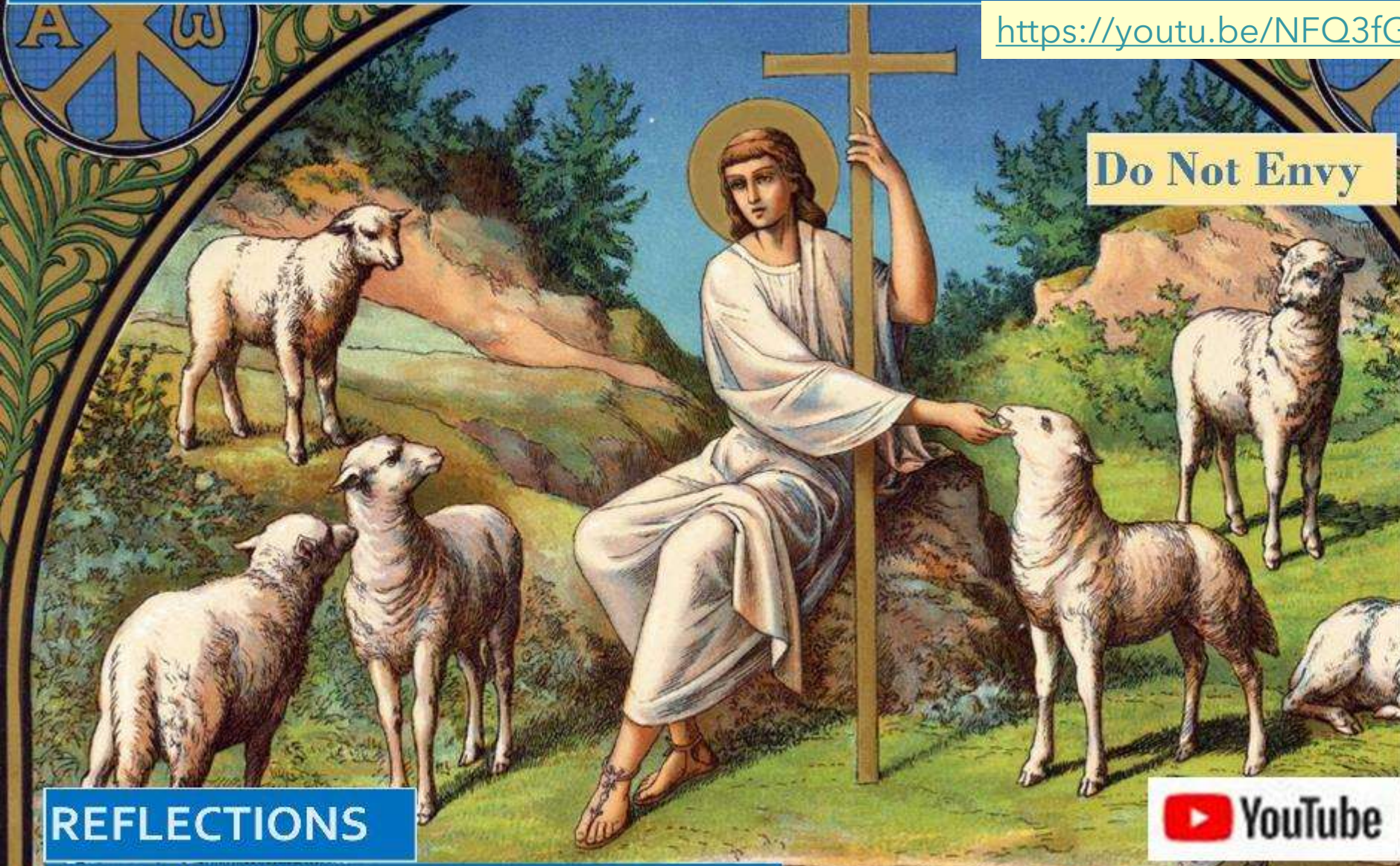
The Shepherd of Hermas instructs us how to cultivate the purity in our hearts by avoiding covetousness:



# Ancient Church Writing, Shepherd of Hermas

<https://youtu.be/NFQ3fGocis0>

**Do Not Envy**



**REFLECTIONS**

Morality, Philosophy, and History



# Ancient Church Writing, Shepherd of Hermas

“Be simple and guileless, be like the children who are ignorant of the wickedness that ruins the life of men. Speak evil of no-one, and do not revel to anyone who speaks evil of another.” You sin when you listen to slander, when you believe the slander you become a slanderer. “Slander is evil and an unsteady demon, never peaceful, always stirring up discord.” “Practice goodness,” “give to all,” “he who gives is guiltless.”

<https://youtu.be/NFQ3fGocis0>

**Do Not Envy**

**REFLECTIONS**

Morality, Philosophy, and History



# Ancient Church Writing, Shepherd of Hermas

CCC 2517 "The heart is the seat of moral personality: "Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication...." The struggle against carnal covetousness entails purifying the heart and practicing temperance:

From Shepherd of Hermas:  
**Remain simple and innocent, and you will be like little children who do not know the evil that destroys man's life.**

**REFLECTIONS**

**Morality, Philosophy, and History**

<https://youtu.be/NFQ3fGocis0>

**Do Not Envy**

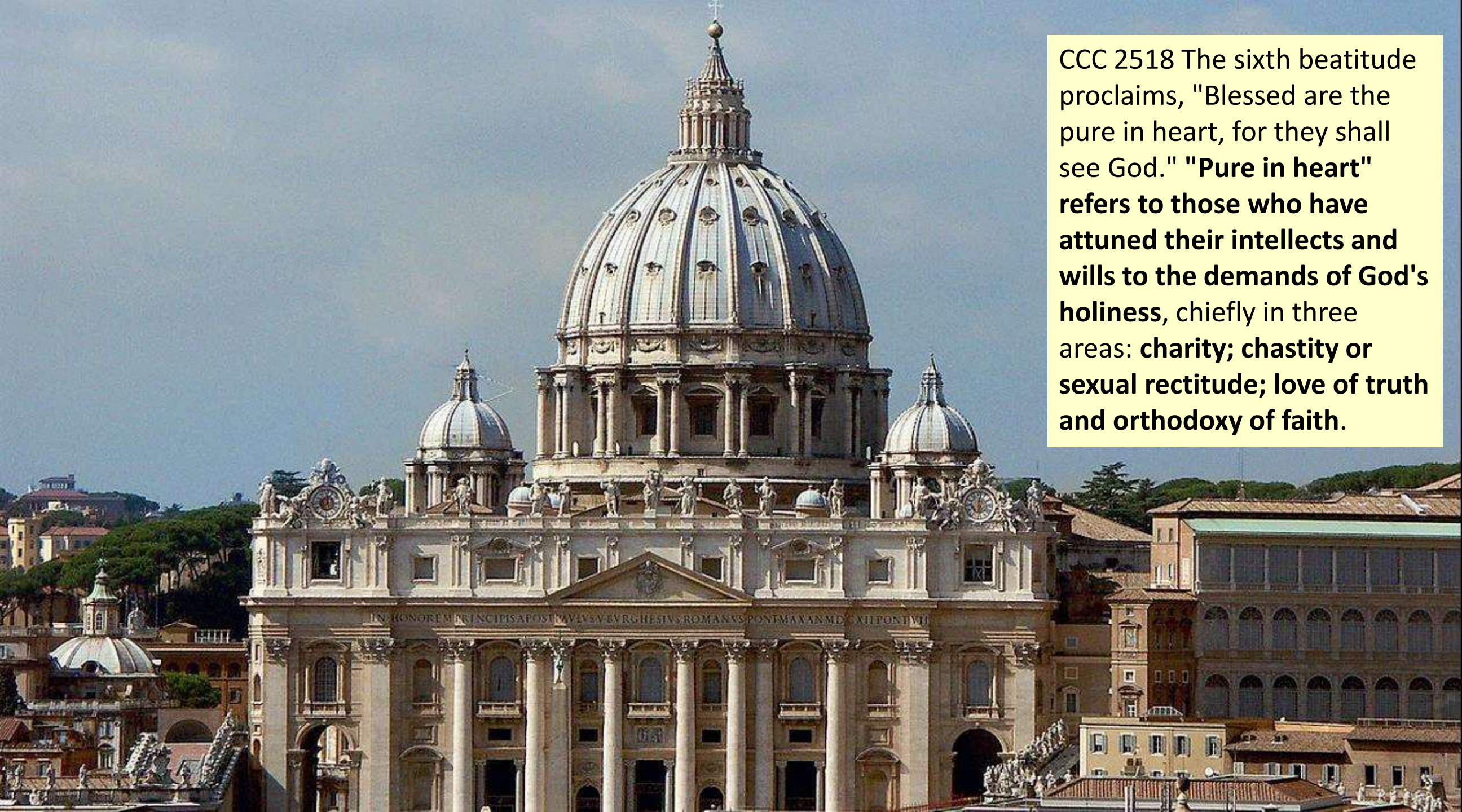




The command that we should be guileless infers that this simplicity requires effort and vigilance, while the command to be innocent like children reminds of the words of Jesus, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”



Christ with the little children by [Carl Heinrich Bloch](#), 1800's



CCC 2518 The sixth beatitude proclaims, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." **"Pure in heart" refers to those who have attuned their intellects and wills to the demands of God's holiness, chiefly in three areas: charity; chastity or sexual rectitude; love of truth and orthodoxy of faith.**

# St Augustine: On Faith and the Creed

## De Fide et Symbolo

<https://youtu.be/np21ooy5Nwg>



CCC 2518, continued:

St Augustine's On Faith and the Creed is quoted:

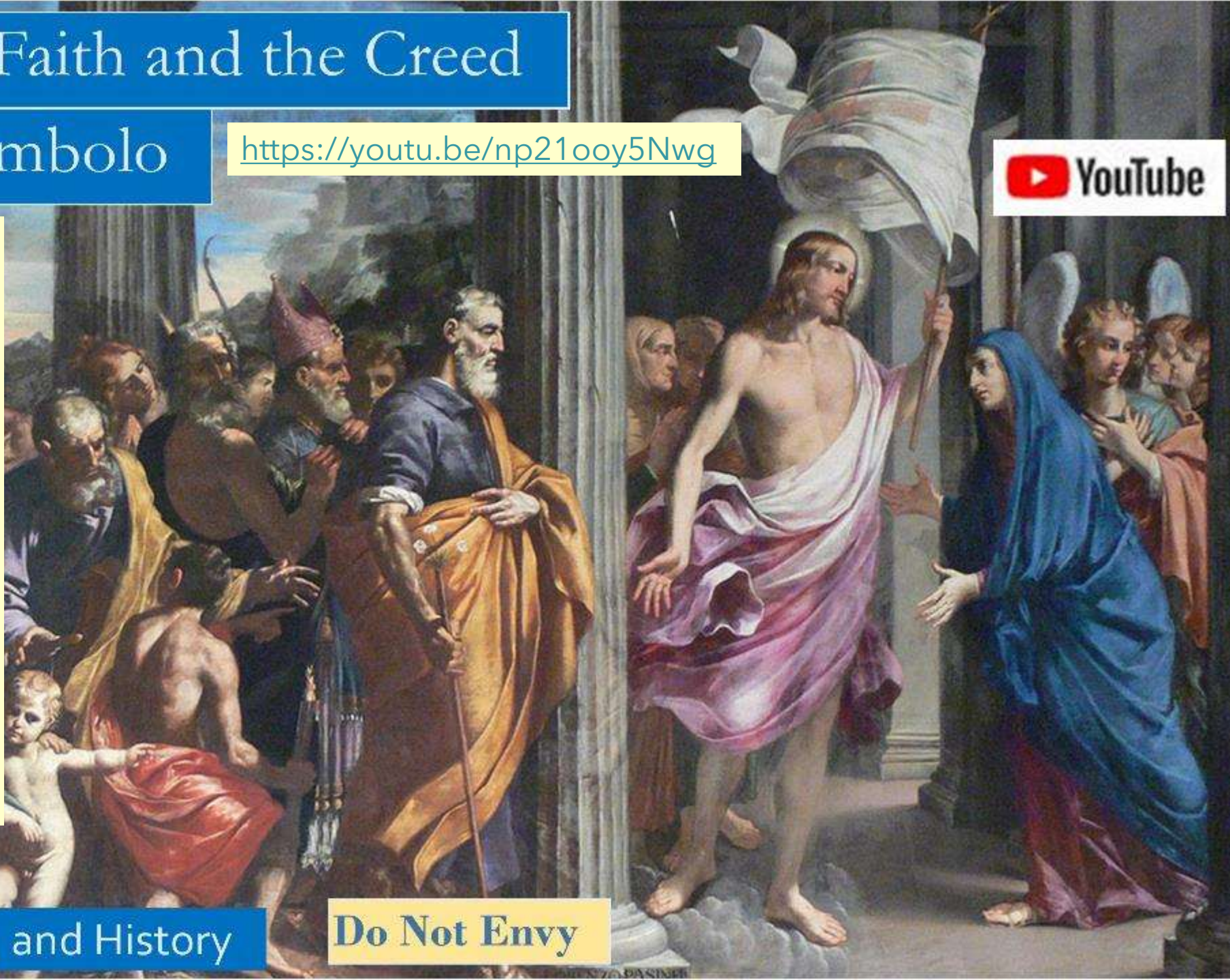
There is a connection between purity of heart, of body, and of faith:

**The faithful must believe the articles of the Creed "so that by believing they may obey God, by obeying may live well, by living well may purify their hearts, and with pure hearts may understand what they believe."**

### REFLECTIONS

Morality, Philosophy, and History

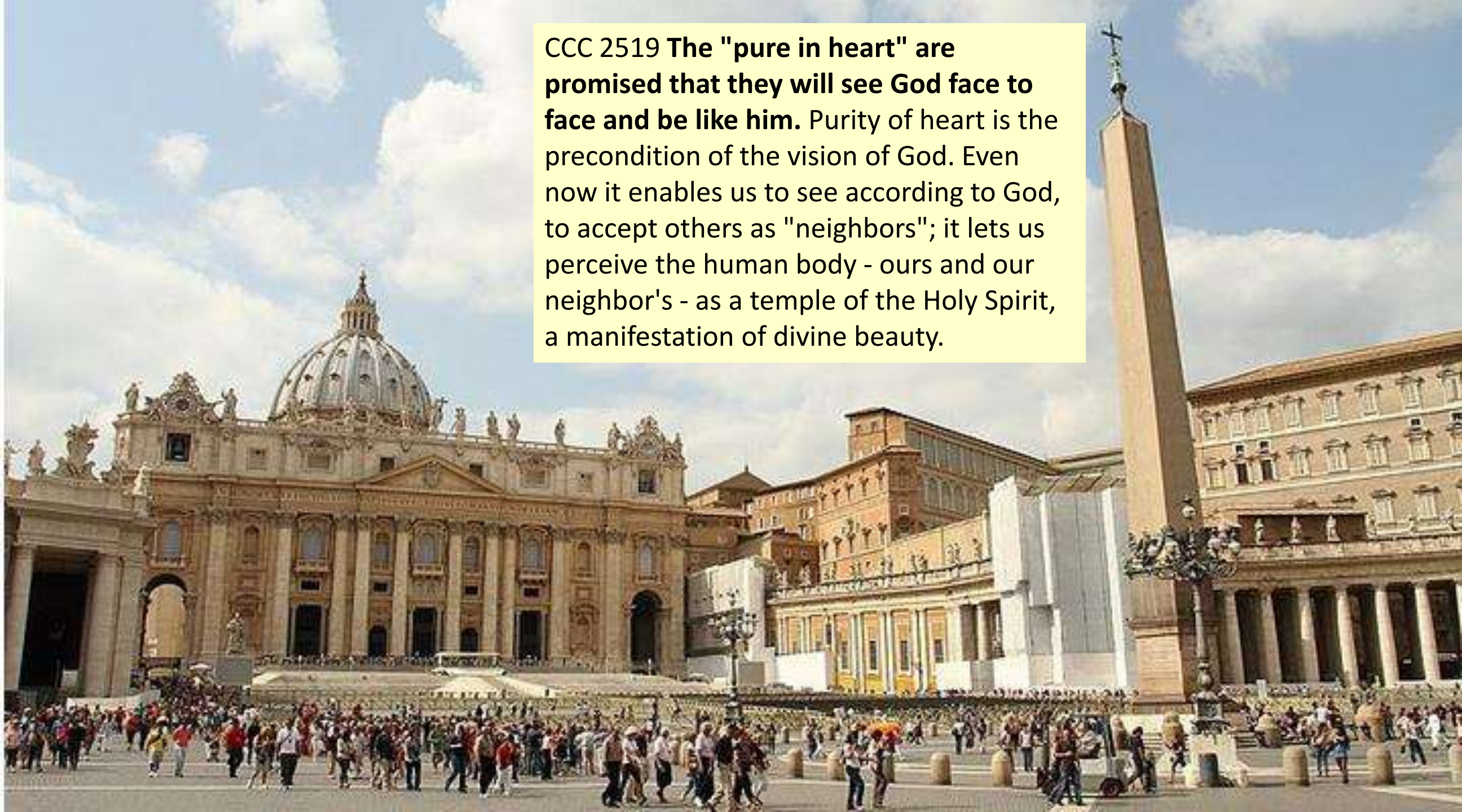
Do Not Envy



St Augustine in his treatise on the Creed teaches us that when we truly understand the nature of the Trinity, when we truly realize how unconditionally God loves us, when we comprehend that God is Love, then we will naturally be led to Love God with all of our heart and with all of our soul and with all of our mind, and love our neighbor as ourselves. We can never envy the good fortunes of those neighbors whom we love.



CCC 2519 The "pure in heart" are promised that they will see God face to face and be like him. Purity of heart is the precondition of the vision of God. Even now it enables us to see according to God, to accept others as "neighbors"; it lets us perceive the human body - ours and our neighbor's - as a temple of the Holy Spirit, a manifestation of divine beauty.



The Catechism teaches us that purity in heart prevents us from covetousness by enabling us to see others as God sees them, enabling us to see others as our neighbors, enabling us to realize we are all “temples of the Holy Spirit, a manifestation of heavenly beauty.”

(REPEAT) CCC 2520 The grace of Baptism helps to purify us from our sins, but we must continue to struggle against concupiscence of the flesh and disordered desires. In other words, we do not want to feed our evil passions.

God’s grace will help us to prevail in our two-fold Love of God and our neighbor by the virtue and gift of chastity.

Our intents and motives must be pure, we must think of others and not only of ourselves, we must seek this simplicity of vision, we must seek to find and to fulfill God's will in everything.

We must have purity of vision, external and internal; **by discipline of feelings and imagination; by refusing all complicity in impure thoughts that incline us to turn aside from the path of God's commandments: "Appearance arouses yearning in fools"**



## BATTLE FOR PURITY

CCC 2520 Baptism confers on its recipient the grace of purification from all sins. But the baptized must continue to struggle against concupiscence of the flesh and disordered desires. With God's grace he will prevail

- by the virtue and gift of chastity, for chastity lets us love with upright and undivided heart;

- by purity of intention which consists in seeking the true end of man: with simplicity of vision, the baptized person seeks to find and to fulfill God's will in everything;

- by purity of vision, external and internal; **by discipline of feelings and imagination; by refusing all complicity in impure thoughts that incline us to turn aside from the path of God's commandments: "Appearance arouses yearning in fools"**

We find an example in how we can strengthen our faith in our daily lives in the monastic manuals of the ancient and medieval Church, including one of these first monastic handbooks by St Anthony, which helped push St Augustine towards the decision to formally convert to Christianity and live a godly life. We are all monastics, for all monasticism is simply living out a life celebrating the two-fold Love of God and loving our neighbor as ourselves.





# Life of St Anthony, Desert Monastic

<https://youtu.be/2sR8OCZqzFw>

REFLECTIONS

Morality, Philosophy, and History



# St Augustine's Key Work: Confessions

## Autobiography and Testimonial

CCC 2520 Continued

With God's grace the believer will prevail by prayer:

FROM CONFESSIONS:

**I thought that continence arose from one's own powers, which I did not recognize in myself. I was foolish enough not to know . . . that no one can be continent unless you grant it. For you would surely have granted it if my inner groaning had reached your ears and I with firm faith had cast my cares on you.**



REFLECTIONS

Morality, Philosophy, and History

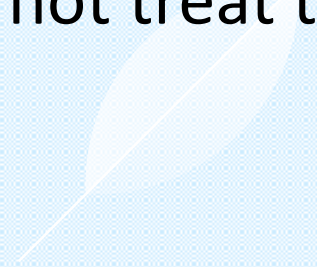
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St Augustine may be referring to his prior prayer, before he fully converted to a godly life, “God, grant me continence, but not yet!” How patiently God waits for sinners to repent.

The following sections on coveting have no footnotes, these sections carry advice from the bishops to the flock on modern issues we encounter when we try follow this commandment in our daily lives. We encourage you to read these sections of the Catechism for yourself, we will only briefly summarize them.

A modern teaching of Vatican II is we should respect the dignity of all people, and in particular we should respect the personal dignity of those close to us, our family, our friends, our co-workers. We respect the dignity of others when we see them as real persons, when we respect them as human beings, when we do not treat them as objects to use for our own personal pleasure and profit.



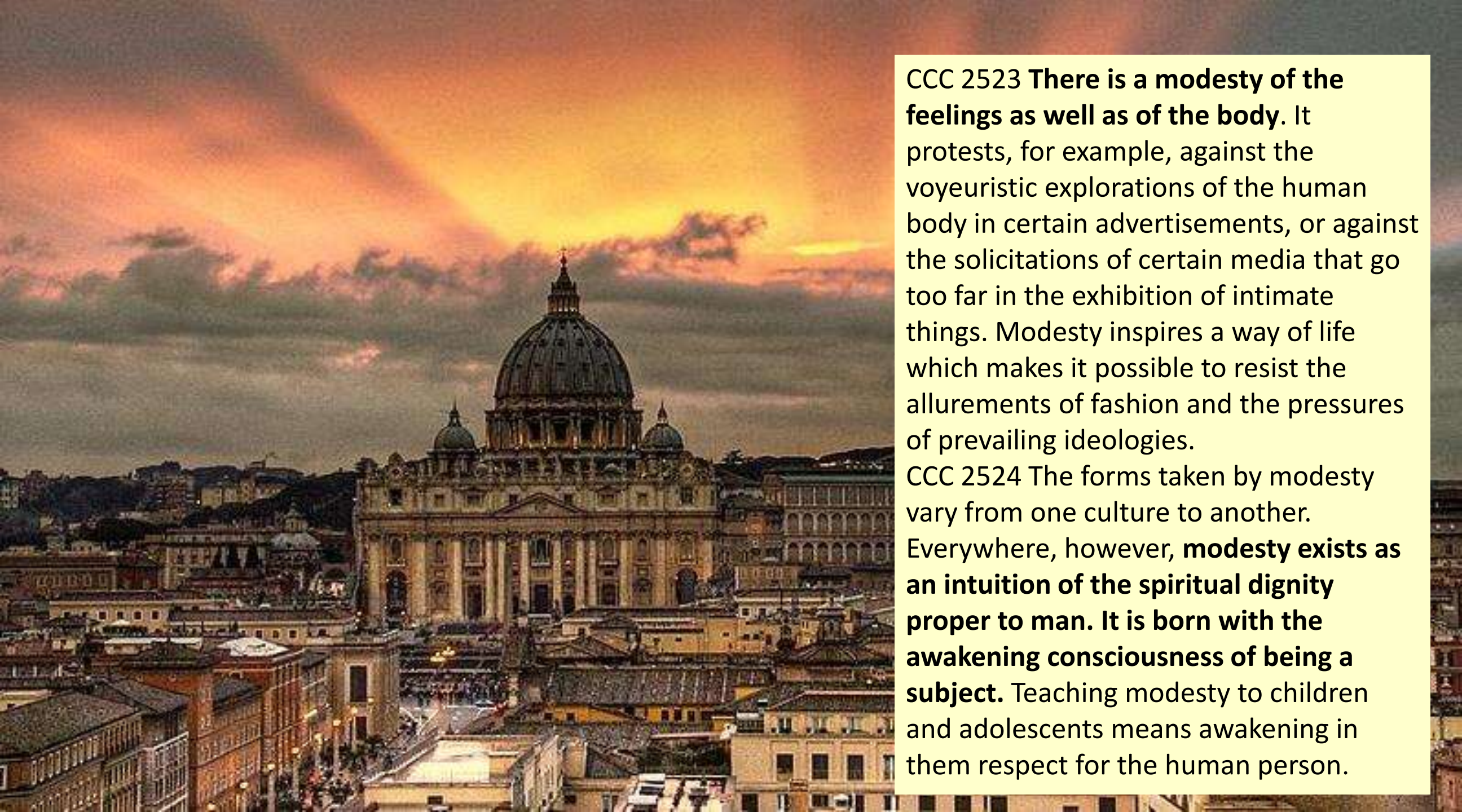
(REPEAT) We should be modest in our dress, in our discretion, in our feelings, we should not seek to arouse passions and temptations in others that will cloud their ability to respect our dignity as a person, and will instead tempt others to see us as mere objects to be used. Modesty respects God, modesty respects our neighbor, modesty keeps our hearts pure. Standards of modesty do vary by culture, but when in doubt, expose less, speak less, criticize less.

We should be modest in our speech, and we should be modest in what we see. What we say matters. What we say matters. Just as much as we should guard what we say, avoiding cursing and vulgarity, avoiding gossip, so we should avoid polluting our memories and our souls with evil memories from sadistically violent or voyeuristic or pornographic movies.

Our modesty should serve as a good example for our children, so we are able to teach modesty to our children. We must teach our children to respect the truth, to treasure purity of heart, to seek “the moral and spiritual dignity” of all those around them. (read following highlights)

CCC 2522 Modesty protects the mystery of persons and their love. **It encourages patience and moderation in loving relationships;** it requires that the conditions for the definitive giving and commitment of man and woman to one another be fulfilled. **Modesty is decency.** It inspires one's choice of clothing. It keeps silence or reserve where there is evident risk of unhealthy curiosity. It is discreet.





CCC 2523 **There is a modesty of the feelings as well as of the body.** It protests, for example, against the voyeuristic explorations of the human body in certain advertisements, or against the solicitations of certain media that go too far in the exhibition of intimate things. Modesty inspires a way of life which makes it possible to resist the allurements of fashion and the pressures of prevailing ideologies.

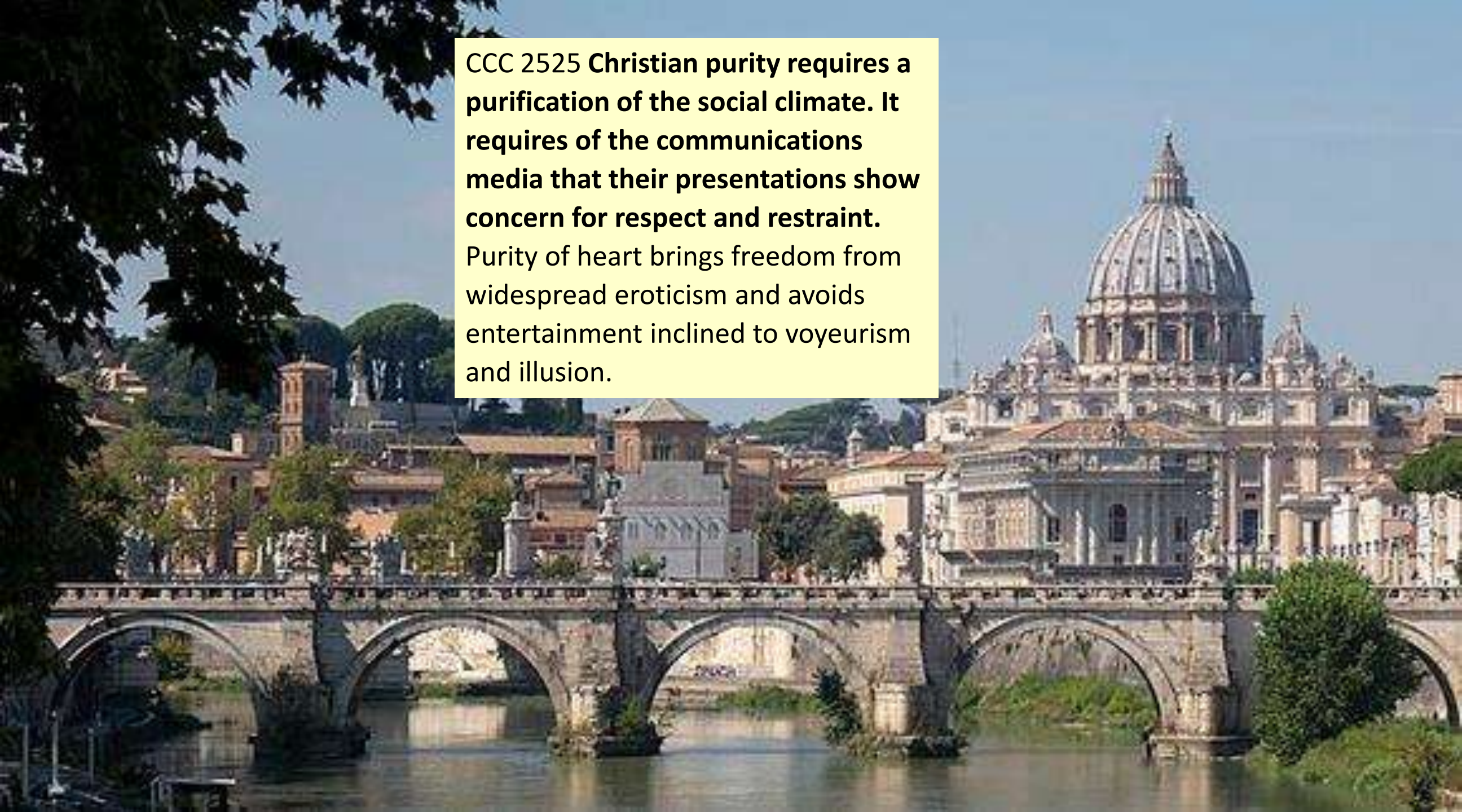
CCC 2524 The forms taken by modesty vary from one culture to another. Everywhere, however, **modesty exists as an intuition of the spiritual dignity proper to man. It is born with the awakening consciousness of being a subject.** Teaching modesty to children and adolescents means awakening in them respect for the human person.

**(explaining) Modesty exists as an intuition of the spiritual dignity proper to man. It is born with the awakening consciousness of being a subject.**

Kantian philosophy and Vatican II teaches us all people have dignity, no matter their social status, their race, their nationality, their religion, their education or intelligence, or their gender. Nobody should be treated as an object, here “subject” is seen as someone treasured for their own human worth, the opposite of an object.



**CCC 2525 Christian purity requires a purification of the social climate. It requires of the communications media that their presentations show concern for respect and restraint. Purity of heart brings freedom from widespread eroticism and avoids entertainment inclined to voyeurism and illusion.**





Pope Francis discusses in his recent Apostolic Declaration on how anger and slander can harm both our neighbors and our very own souls just as much when expressed on Twitter and Facebook as it can be harmful when we are mean and hateful in person. Before we say or do anything in person or on the internet, we should first ask ourselves, Does this comment or action increase the two-fold Love of God and love for our neighbor?



# Pope Francis: Gaudete et Exsultate On the Call To Holiness in Today's World

<https://youtu.be/jF-fsMvYsak>

REFLECTIONS

Morality, Philosophy, and History

 YouTube

**(REPEAT) CCC 2526 So called moral permissiveness rests on an erroneous conception of human freedom.**

We have this concept that everything, including moral teaching, should be condensed in twitter-length memes, but when we attempt to dumb down the moral teachings of the church we instead fall victim to the ugly prejudices of our culture and our upbringing. Instead, we must be open to EDUCATION, and education implies effort and study and READING, reading Scriptures, reading the Church fathers, both ancient and modern, reading the teachings of the church.

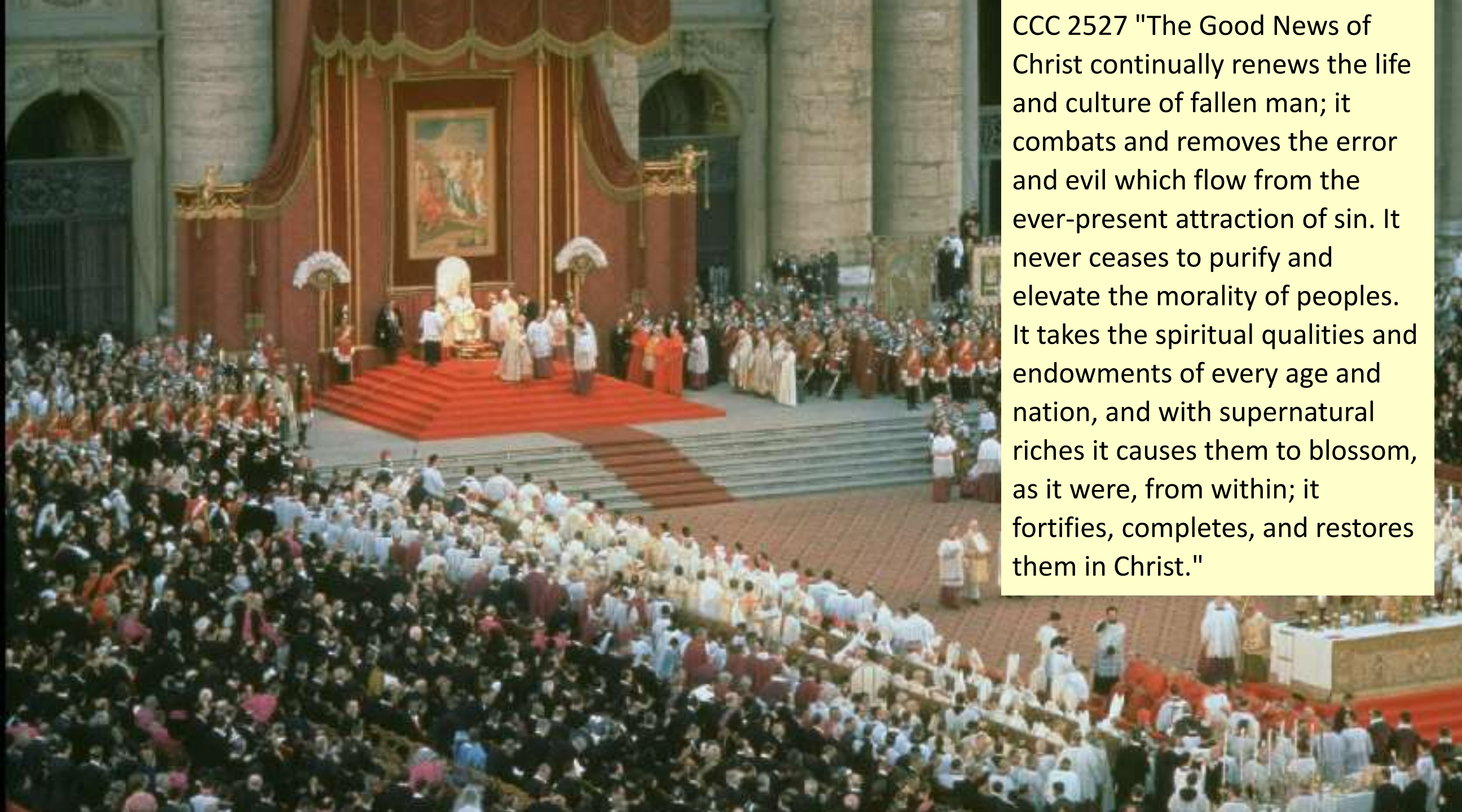
**Our young people must be instructed to be respectful of the truth, the qualities of the heart, and the moral and spiritual dignity of man.**

CCC 2526 So called **moral permissiveness** rests on an **erroneous conception of human freedom**; the necessary precondition for the development of true freedom is to let oneself be **educated** in the moral law. Those in charge of education can reasonably be expected to **give young people instruction respectful of the truth, the qualities of the heart, and the moral and spiritual dignity of man.**



(REPEAT) The Catechism closes this discussion with a quote from section 58, *Gaudium Et Spes*, the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World: “The Good News of Christ continually renews the life and culture of fallen man; it combats and removes the error and evil which flow from the ever-present attraction of sin. It never ceases to purify and elevate the morality of peoples. It takes the spiritual qualities and endowments of every age and nation, and with supernatural riches it causes them to blossom, as it were, from within; it fortifies, completes, and restores them in Christ.”

*Gaudium Et Spes* is one of the main documents issued by Vatican II. Since it explores the relationship between the Church and modern world, it was debated and amended and rewritten many times in many sessions. The quote is from the section exploring how the Church should respond to the modern culture, and it really restates the classical struggle between the Church and the world, Who is going to influence whom? Will the world corrupt the Church, dragging it down, condemning it; or will the Church purify the world, uplifting mankind, making the world a better place?



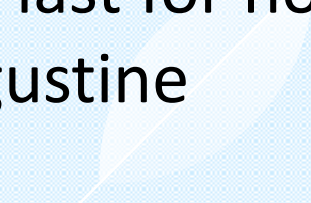
CCC 2527 "The Good News of Christ continually renews the life and culture of fallen man; it combats and removes the error and evil which flow from the ever-present attraction of sin. It never ceases to purify and elevate the morality of peoples. It takes the spiritual qualities and endowments of every age and nation, and with supernatural riches it causes them to blossom, as it were, from within; it fortifies, completes, and restores them in Christ."

Will we permit the world to corrupt us, drag us down into the abyss? Or will we bring out the light in our life from under our bushel, so everyone we meet will be slightly better people because we were in their lives?

Another question generated by these catechetical reflections is this:

Did God create us as intelligent men in His image so we could spend all our free time entertaining ourselves?

This was not a problem in the ancient world, there was no television, no radio, no movies, no internet in the ancient world. Where there was theater, it was infrequent, Dr Wikipedia suggests that ancient Athens had about dozen religious festivals each year where theatrical contests were held. Many of the ancient discourses of the Church Fathers were talks or sermons that could last for hours, and we know the congregation paid rapt attention because St Augustine admonished his parishioners not to applaud.



The Catholic Catechism summarizes the teachings on coveting and concupiscence:

2528 “Everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

2529 The ninth commandment warns against lust or carnal concupiscence.

2530 The struggle against carnal lust involves purifying the heart and practicing temperance.

2531 Purity of heart will enable us to see God: it enables us even now to see things according to God.

2532 Purification of the heart demands prayer, the practice of chastity, purity of intention and of vision.

2533 Purity of heart requires the modesty which is patience, decency, and discretion. Modesty protects the intimate center of the person.





SOURCES: Our primary source is the Catholic Catechism, we prefer the US Bishop's Edition because of the comprehensive indices it includes. You can also view the complete US Bishops Catechism online, and also the Vatican website has the complete Catechism with footnotes.

The US Bishop's indices are invaluable if you wish to treat the Catholic Catechism as a study plan for reading the ancient and modern Church Fathers, and as we discussed in our [video](#) on the Catholic and Lutheran Catechisms,



You can purchase and/or view the full Catechism on-line at the US Catholic Bishops website:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/>



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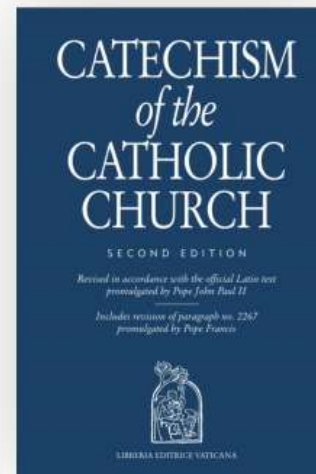
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— Pope John Paul II



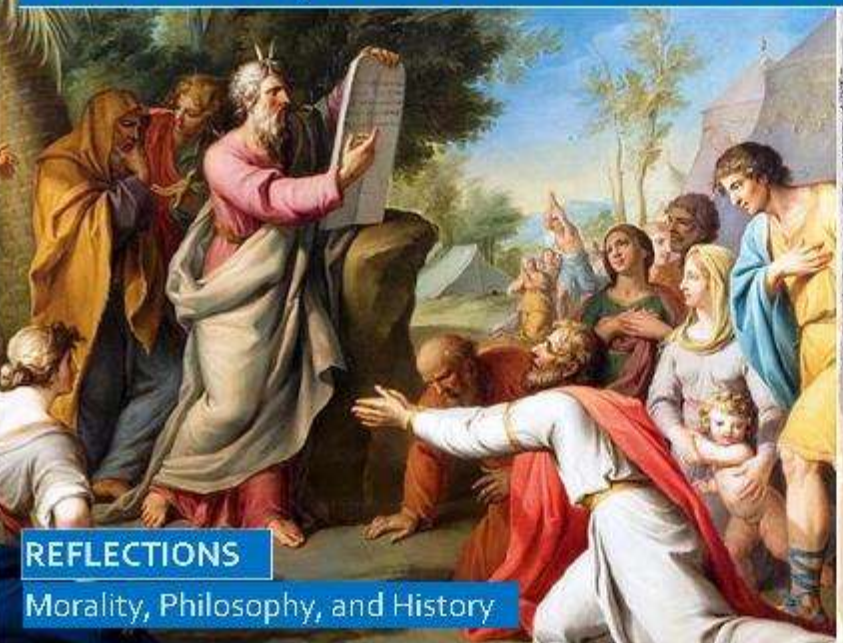
These are the videos discussing the Catholic Catechism's on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> commandments on DO NOT ENVY, DO NOT COVET.

And also the history of the Lutheran and Catholic Catechism, we have other videos where we discuss the Lutheran teachings on the Ten Commandments.

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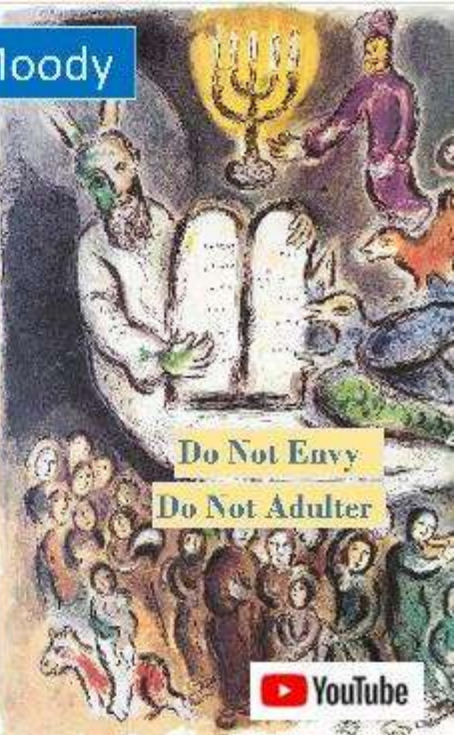


# Do Not Covet, Church Fathers and DL Moody



REFLECTIONS

Morality, Philosophy, and History



Do Not Envy  
Do Not Adulter



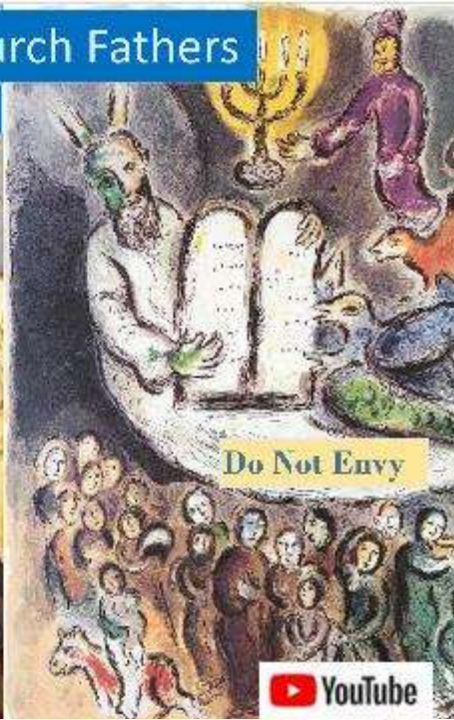
# Do Not Covet, Catholic Catechism & Church Fathers



CCC 2514—2516

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Do Not Envy



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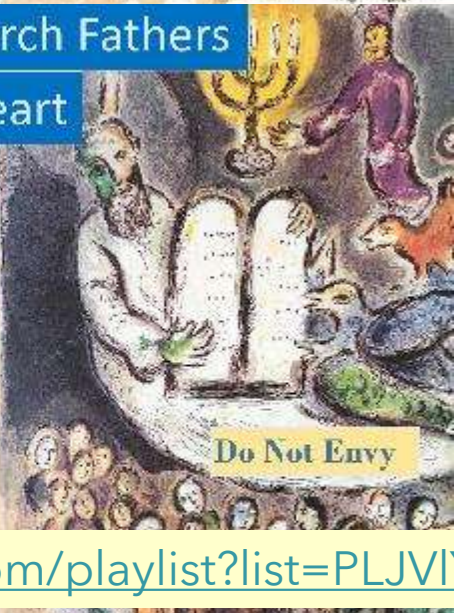


Purification of the Heart

CCC 2517—2533

REFLECTIONS

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Do Not Envy



# Do Not Covet What Belongs To Your Neighbor

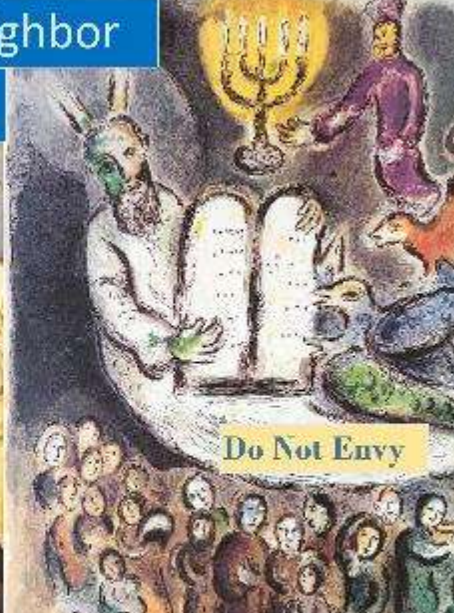


Catholic Catechism

CCC 2533—2557

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<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJVIY2bjK8li1ULMrgL23X-iA5aCENq6i>

# Catholic and Lutheran Catechisms

<https://youtu.be/i8WXS7I4OzE>



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Morality, Philosophy, and History

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CATHOLIC  
CHURCH

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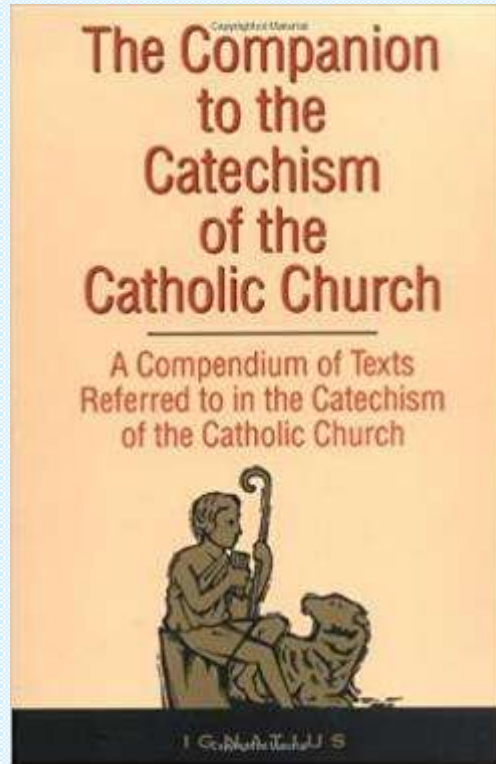
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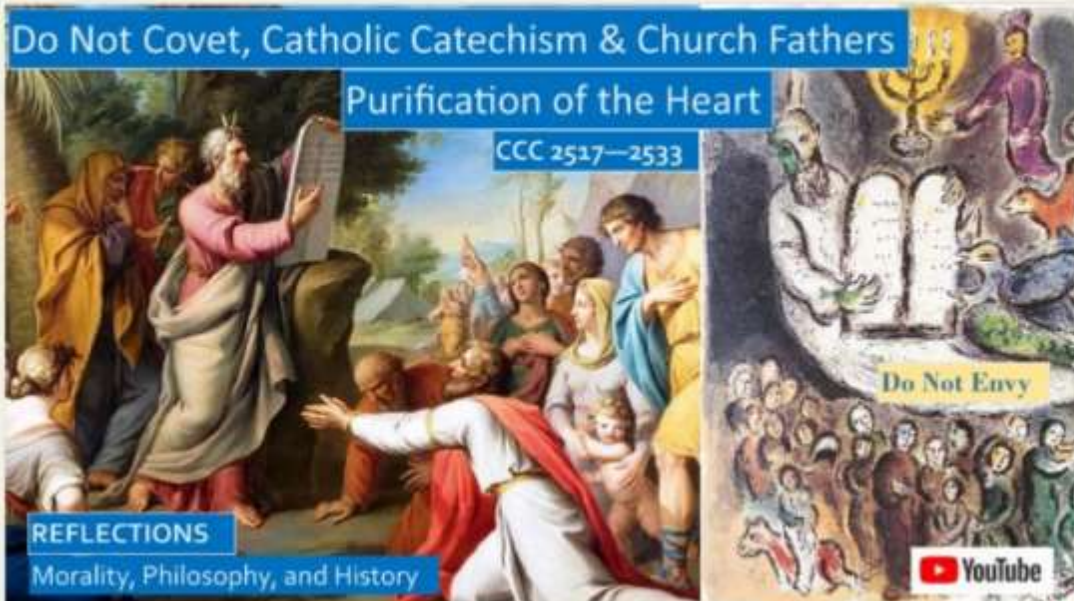
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## Catholic Catechism, Do Not Envy, Purification of the Heart, CCC 2517-2533

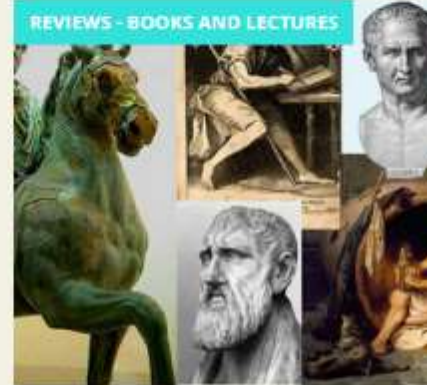
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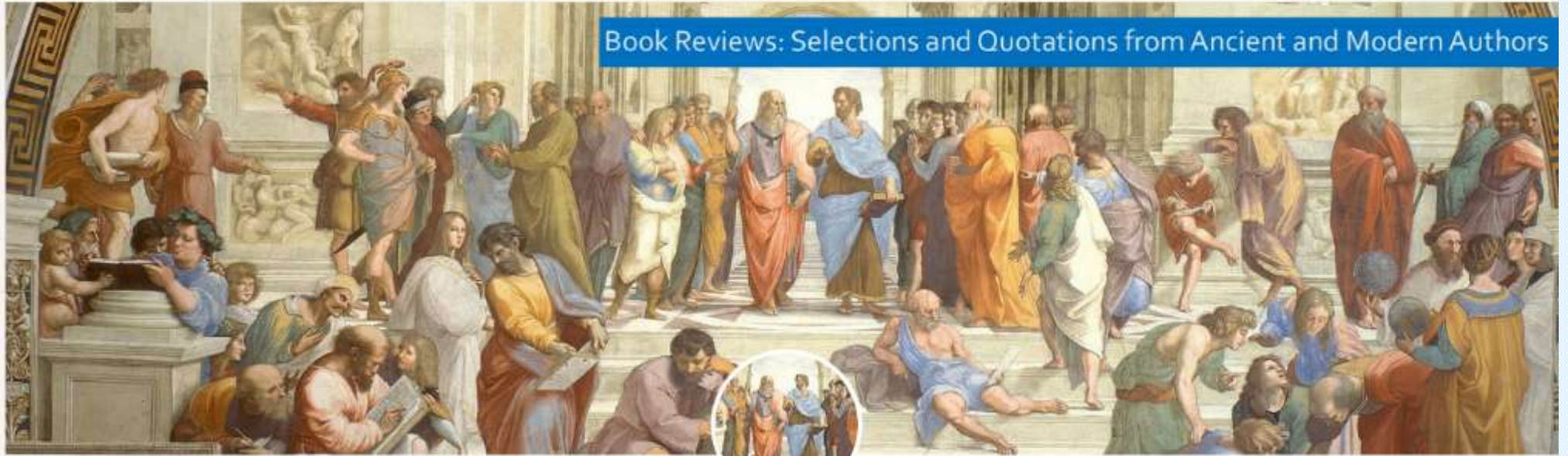
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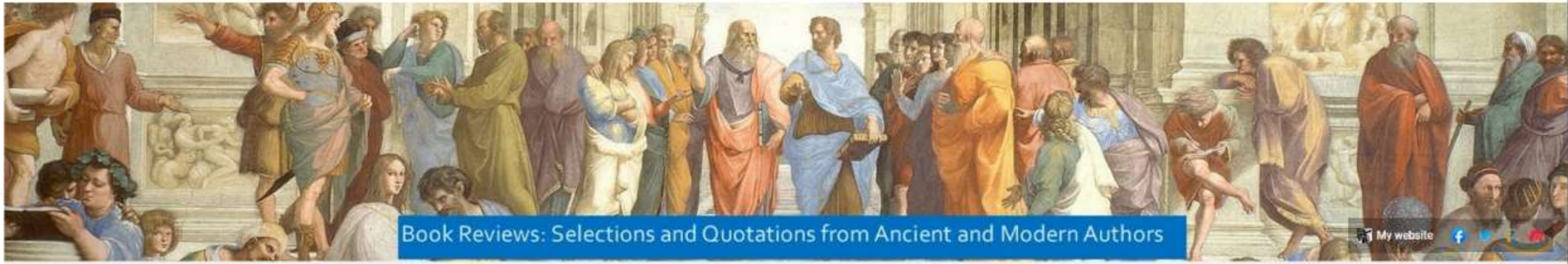


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