



In recent years, the term *woke culture* has gained prominence as a movement seeking to raise awareness of and address social, cultural, and economic injustices. However, this phenomenon has also sparked intense debates about its implications, especially from a Christian perspective. How should Catholicism respond to this culture? What challenges and opportunities does this movement present for the Church and the faithful? In this article, we will reflect from a Catholic perspective, exploring how the faith can illuminate a path that resists the ideological excesses of woke culture while reaffirming the principles of the Gospel.

1. What is Woke Culture?

The term *woke*, derived from the English word *awake*, originally referred to a critical awareness of inequalities and systemic oppressions, especially regarding race and social justice. It emerged in the context of civil rights movements and the fight against structural racism. However, today, the concept has expanded to encompass causes such as radical feminism, gender ideology, and the reinterpretation of traditional values, sometimes in opposition to deeply rooted ethical and religious principles.

In its extreme form, woke culture tends to polarize and cancel dissenting voices, promoting moral relativism and ethical subjectivism that clash with the objective truths proclaimed by the Catholic faith.

2. Catholicism as a Response: Truth and Charity

Truth as a Beacon in a Confused World

In a context where woke culture often promotes a “subjective truth” — where each individual defines what is morally right based on personal experience or identity — Catholicism stands as a defender of objective truth, grounded in natural law and divine revelation.

Christ himself reminds us in John 14:6: “*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.*” Truth is not something we can mold to our whims; it is something we discover and receive as a gift from God. In this sense, the Catholic faith offers a clear alternative to the ideological excesses of woke culture: a commitment to the truth that liberates and does not oppress.



Charity as the Path to Dialogue

Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, emphasizes the importance of a culture of encounter. While Catholics are called to resist ideologies that contradict the Gospel, this does not imply a confrontational stance. Instead, we are invited to respond with charity, discerning the legitimate values that woke culture may promote (such as the fight against racism or the dignity of women) while rejecting what contradicts revealed truth.

Saint Augustine summarized this stance in an immortal phrase: “*Love and do what you will.*” That is, every judgment should be illuminated by love, which seeks the true good of others, even when it involves speaking uncomfortable truths.

3. History: The Church and the Ideologies of Its Time

Throughout history, the Catholic Church has faced multiple ideological movements that challenged its doctrine. From Gnosticism in the early centuries to modern relativism, it has always been able to offer a response grounded in reason, tradition, and faith.

Moral Relativism

Woke culture shares with moral relativism the tendency to deny absolute truths, promoting the idea that each individual can build their own morality. This is nothing new: Pope Benedict XVI denounced the “*dictatorship of relativism*”, which subjugates truth to individual desire, leading to a disoriented society.

Sexual Revolution and Gender Ideology

In recent decades, the Church has defended the concept of Christian anthropology against movements seeking to redefine human nature. Saint John Paul II, with his *Theology of the Body*, offered a positive and profoundly human vision of sexuality and the dignity of the human person, in contrast to the reductive perspectives promoted by gender ideology.

History shows that while ideologies change, the truth of the Gospel remains as a steady guide for humanity.



4. Current Challenges for Catholicism in the Face of Woke Culture

The Risk of Silence

One of the greatest temptations for Catholics in the era of woke culture is the fear of speaking out. We live in a time where opinions that are contrary to the social consensus are quickly labeled as intolerant or backward. However, silence is not an option for Christ's disciples.

Jesus calls us to be the *"salt of the earth"* and the *"light of the world"* (Mt 5:13-16). This implies proclaiming the truth with courage, even when it is unpopular, always rooted in charity.

The Challenge of Cancel Culture

Cancel culture, which seeks to silence those who do not align with woke principles, contradicts human dignity and freedom of expression. As Catholics, we must defend not only our freedom to proclaim the truth but also the right of every person to be heard, regardless of how unpopular their opinion may be.

Educating in the Faith

Woke culture finds fertile ground in a society that has lost touch with revealed truth. Evangelization and catechesis become essential. We need to form new generations in the faith, helping them discern the ideologies of their time and equipping them to live the Gospel with courage.

5. Practical Applications for Catholics Today

Discern with Wisdom

Saint Paul exhorts us: *"Test everything and hold fast to what is good"* (1 Thess. 5:21). This



means that as Catholics, we must approach woke culture with a critical spirit, discerning what aligns with the Gospel and rejecting what contradicts it.

Be Witnesses of the Gospel

The best way to counter any ideology is to live our faith authentically. This involves:

- **Promoting the dignity of every person:** Every human being, regardless of race, sex, or social condition, is made in the image and likeness of God.
- **Defending the family:** Woke culture often attacks traditional family values. Catholics are called to show through our testimony that the family, based on the marriage between a man and a woman, is a path of love and fulfillment.

Commitment to Society

The Catholic response is not one of isolation from the world, but an active commitment to transform it. This includes engaging in public debates, promoting just policies, and, above all, living our faith with coherence.

6. Conclusion: More Catholicism, More Gospel

Facing woke culture does not mean rejecting it entirely or fearing it, but offering a response rooted in the truth of the Gospel. The Church has a prophetic mission: to illuminate the shadows of every age with the light of Christ. This demands courage, discernment, and love from us.

Woke culture presents challenges but also opportunities to bear witness to the Gospel in a vibrant and relevant way. Now more than ever, the world needs committed Catholics, living their faith with joy and boldness. Are we ready to accept this call? History teaches us that, with Christ, even the most complex challenges can be transformed into paths of salvation.