In recent times, a dangerous distortion of sacred doctrine has seeped into the mindset of many Catholics. Behind seemingly pious slogans like *“let us not judge,” “let us be tolerant,”* or *“let’s not mix religion and morality,”* lies a diluted, timid Catholicism—one that strays from the firmness that has always characterized Holy Mother Church.

Against this *“watered-down Catholicism”*—fraternal in appearance but weak in substance—stands Christ’s eternal truth: a message of **love, yes, but also of justice; of mercy, yes, but also of conversion.**

I. The Distortions of False Catholicism

1. “Judge Not” (Mt 7:1): An Excuse for Relativism?

Many carelessly quote Christ’s words: *“Judge not, that you be not judged”* (Mt 7:1), yet forget that the same Jesus also said: *“By their fruits you will know them”* (Mt 7:16). **The Church has always taught that we must discern between good and evil**, for indifference to moral truth leads to spiritual ruin.

St. Paul exhorts: *“Speak the truth in love”* (Eph 4:15). **Correcting error is not hatred; pointing out sin is not a lack of charity, but true love for one’s neighbor.**

2. “Turn the Other Cheek” vs. Defending the Truth

Christ taught us not to respond to evil with violence (Mt 5:39), but this does not mean **passivity in the face of error**. The same Jesus drove the money-changers from the Temple with a whip (Jn 2:15), showing that there are times when firmness is necessary.

The Church cannot *“turn the other cheek”* in the face of heresy, public sin, or the corruption of souls. **Truth demands courage, not cowardice disguised as humility.**

3. “Let’s Not Mix Religion and…” (Politics, Morality, Public Life)

This is one of the most pernicious lies of the modern world. **Christ did not come to be a private “spiritual teacher” but the King of the Universe.** He commanded: *“Go and teach all nations”* (Mt 28:19).

The Catholic faith is not a private feeling but **a truth that must illuminate every sphere of life**, including society. To claim that *“religion should not influence politics”* is to deny the Social Kingship of Christ.

II. True Catholicism: Steadfastness in Truth

Against these distortions, **authentic Catholicism is marked by:**

- **TRUTH:** *“The truth will set you free”* (Jn 8:32). The Church does not negotiate dogma.
- **FIRMNESS:** Like St. Paul: *“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort”* (2 Tim 4:2).
- **COURAGE:** Like the martyrs, who chose death over betraying the faith.
- **AUTHORITY:** Christ founded a hierarchical Church, not a democracy of opinions.

III. Conclusion: Charity or Cowardice?

Mercy without justice is complicity. Tolerance without truth is betrayal. **Catholicism is not a feel-good club but the religion of God-made-Man, who came to save man from sin.**

Now more than ever, Catholics must be **the light in the darkness** (Mt 5:14), unafraid to proclaim the truth, even if the world calls us *“intolerant.”* For, as Chesterton said: *“The modern world is full of Christian virtues gone mad, severed from Christ’s humility and wisdom.”*

Let us not settle for a lukewarm Catholicism! Let us be fearless Catholics, faithful to Christ the King!

“Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when He comes in His glory” (Lk 9:26).

 What do you think? Have you noticed these distortions in the faith? Share and defend the truth with both charity and firmness!

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, save souls!