

Reflections

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Attachment to things

One area which brings obstacles to our inner freedom is our enslaving attachment to things. Our Father and Founder often commented that we make too many concessions to the world. In this way, we condemn ourselves and those around us to mediocrity.

“We cannot serve two masters; we cannot serve both God and money” (Mt 6, 24), Jesus warns us. Today, it is tremendously difficult to live amidst the world and not succumb before the spirit of the world. The saints compare it to a cobweb which traps men and women and never lets them go.

The Schoenstatter, A man/woman unlike others

If we want to round off a bit, the image of that new man/woman who wants to create a new world, we must say that he/she is a different man/woman, a man/woman who lives differently from the others. We have to act differently in marriage, in family life, in business and employment, in politics, in the relationship with men and women. In all of these areas, we must distinguish ourselves from others.

The first Christians had the audacity to be different and therefore, they created a new world, a world filled with Christian values. To be different often means to appear crazy as the first Christians did. It also means to do battle against sin in all of its forms, beginning with oneself, but also battling against the many situations of sin in the world which surrounds us.

For that reason, the first Christians would say: “Non sine sanguine,” not without blood. Without blood, the world does not transform itself nor does the Kingdom of God advance. It may be that in some cases, God may also permit the blood of martyrdom. Our Father and Founder was at the point of shedding that blood.

Father was a man who poured the foundations for a new world and a new Church at the price of much pain and sacrifice.

He went through all imaginable battles and he was able to be the foundation for a new world because he overcame in himself the problems of the new world.

Thus, in spite of everything, we have to dare to be different, to appear crazy, to battle against the evil in ourselves and thus live in advance the world of tomorrow.

Style of life

On the other hand, it is necessary that we consequently cultivate a style of evangelical poverty in our life. God asks us to conquer an austere style of life centered on being more and not on having more, centering on having confidence in God and His Providence and not trusting in our material goods.

Therefore, we must create a new style of living, simpler and more solid. For example, let us think about our clothing, our food, our types of parties, our vacations, our homes, our gadgets, our cars, etc.

Also in our groups we should seek concrete ways of being able to grow in simplicity and moderation, in how to become unattached and how to be supportive and share. A member of the Schoenstatt Family cannot allow himself/herself to be guided in this area by the society of consumerism or by the materialistic or secular culture. In that area we have to be different men and women, men and women who live in a different way.

We should distinguish ourselves from the others by our simple and restrained lifestyle, by our independence from the society of consumerism.

Questions for reflection

1. In which way do we distinguish ourselves from others?
2. How is our standard of living?
3. How much are we influenced by the society of consumerism?

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