

ETIC IMPLICATIONS OF COMMANDMENT OF LOVE ACCORDING TO VERITATIS SPLENDOR AND DEUS CARITAS EST

Comparison of interpretations of universal etic norm by John Paul II and Benedict XVI in quoted encyclicals

The purpose of my thesis is to analyse and compare Veritatis splendor and Deus caritas est in order to defend the basic statement that the commandment of love is the only one norm of the christian ethics and every other norm is based on it. A complex of questions comes out from the interpretation of the commandment of love and it can be divided into two branches 'why' and 'how'. There are three main reasons why to live under the commandment: love is aim of liberty, love fulfils the law, love has its origin in the truth. The love according to these three columns leads to salvation. The answer how to live under commandment of love is in the following of the example of Jesus Christ.

The analytic and the synthetic part of my thesis are framed into seven themes: 1) Love, 2) Neighbour, 3) Commandment of love, 4) Law, 5) Liberty, 6) Truth, 7) Following. Several quotations of Holy Script are chosen by the analysis of encyclicals: Love – 1 John 4, 1 Cor 13, Neighbour – Luke 10,30–37; Mat 25, 31–46, Commandment of love – Dt 6, 4–5; Lv 19,18; Mark 12, 29–31; Mat 22, 34–40, Law – Rom 8,2; Rom 13,10, Liberty – John 8,32, Truth – John 14,6; Following – John 15,12–17.

Several conclusions come from the synthesis. Perichoretic and unifying character of love, which unifies God and man in only one 'we', arises from the basics of love of the Trinity. This is possible due to work of Jesus Christ that gives salvation. He is incarnation of love and truth, he is example alone and measure of our love, he is the Law of christians. Christ is attended in our heart owing to Holy Spirit and this is the spiritual aspect of love. The love of Christ is working in us, it calls in life of love to neighbour, i.e. to everyone who is near. It also leads us to become perfect and saint. Our answer in freedom should be evident through impersonating and following the holy examples, Jesus Christ or Virgin Mary at the best. The closest examples, who can teach us to love are children.

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