

Chapter 2: Our Response of Love to God Is Just

With great piety and obedience, we are disposed to give to God and others what is due to them.

Chapter Summary

Jesus did not come to abolish the Law of God given to the Israelites but to fulfill it perfectly. Jesus Himself perfectly obeyed the Old Law. He also showed people the right way to understand it and how to live it. By His grace, Jesus helps us obey the Father as He did. In this way, too, He fulfilled the purpose of the Old Law. Jesus taught people to give God what He is due. We ought to give God worship. The virtue of religion, purified and elevated by grace and rooted in faith, hope, and charity, disposes us to give God due worship. Additionally, those who practice the virtues of piety and obedience give God due honor and follow His commands. But we must also give what is due to others. In particular, piety and obedience incline us to honor and obey our parents and civil leaders. Their authority ultimately comes from God, whom we must follow above all else.

Spiritual but Not Religious

Most people have come across someone who claims to be spiritual but not religious. We may even ask, *Why should I remain Catholic if I can simply be spiritual?* Consider these points when personally answering this question:

1. What does being spiritual but not religious really mean?

- Someone who claims to be spiritual rather than religious often rejects certain elements of organized religion. This can be attributed to a misunderstanding of personal freedom. In other words, if a person identifies as “spiritual,” he may feel free to organize his own religious expressions and moral code.
- The truth, however, is that to attain true and perfect happiness, we must be led by God. He leads us through His Church, instituted by Jesus Christ.

2. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, instituted the Catholic Church out of love and for our spiritual well-being.

- The organized elements of the Church (hierarchy of leadership, obligation to attend Mass, laws/commandments) are given to us for our spiritual well-being and flourishing.



- God’s laws for morality and worship, as expressed through Sacred Scripture and the Catholic Church, are given to lead us to true freedom and happiness. They protect us from sin and spiritual death.
 - Consider the lives of the saints. They accepted Christ fully and embraced the Catholic religion wholeheartedly, living by its precepts. They experienced true happiness on earth and now enjoy perfect everlasting happiness in Heaven.
- #### 3. History supports that the Catholic Church that exists today has existed since the time of Christ.

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