

The Great Crime in Our Famously Hypocritical Society is Being Caught

Hypocrisy is an age-old problem of our society. The priests preach about spiritual life and then break the commandments they are supposed to defend, politicians write legislation, which is supposed to govern our lives and then break them, we get punished for the same mistakes our castigators managed to get away with. The list of such examples is endless. But the biggest problem is that it does not really matter what the proportions of our crimes are. What matters is, whether we will get caught or not.

For the Christians, our conscience is supposed to be our guidance, the direct connection with God. However, even the people that are supposed to act as the pillars of the Church as an institution, and who so fervently preach about how we must obey the rules that God has set for us, do not adhere to it. A recent, sad example of such ill-treatment is the sudden outburst of indictments against a priest who molested children that he was responsible for some twenty to thirty years ago. To make things worse, the priest's colleagues and his superiors knew all about his wrongdoings, but decided against doing anything to remedy the situation – they relocated him to a different parish whenever he committed another act of paedophilia. Admittedly, immediate confession to the public would undoubtedly cast a dark shadow on the Church, but as it was, the heinous crime of paedophilia was coupled with a cover-up, which is just another form of a lie. In addition to the emotional scars induced to the victims, an act of breach of trust was therefore also committed. Every religion is based on faith and also trust. The two entities are mutual. A fairly logical deduction can therefore be made from what was said. When one doubts whether the priests are to be trusted, one's faith is shaken at least, if not completely shattered. What is more, the Catholic Church would not have done anything had the crime not been uncovered (he was excommunicated afterwards). If the priest had confessed to the he act had committed, at least the faith of the people would have been preserved. Granted, that probably not many followers of the Anglican Church were affected by this case, because true believers usually believe in what they are told, no matter the logic. My point, however, still stands.

Beside religion, politics is another important factor of our lives. A state, which is essentially the basic structure of politics and the other way around, is an entity that enables our society to function in at least tolerable fashion. Yet, when I will finish this essay and turn on the TV to watch the news, the first piece of news I will probably see is one politician accusing another of malpractice, thievery and whatnot. While the accusations may hold water, the plaintiff neglects to mention that he or she would not have made these accusations

publicly, if the accused were not a member of the opposing party. We all know that politics is just a bundle of low blows and is more a necessary evil than something people would feel a great deal of respect for.

And last, but not least: judicature and legislature. This is where people “get caught” or not. One would (naively) expect that judicature always does the right thing, that the guilty are always found guilty and the innocent proven innocent. But what if innocent people are found guilty? And if people are found guilty even before they are sentenced by the court of law? How many have thought “He or she is certainly guilty” even before the accused was found guilty or was acquitted? To a certain point, such behaviour is hypocritical, because we would like to see people being sentenced based on a feeling we happen to have, which is something we would not want to happen to us.

The sad fact is that no matter what crime one has committed, one will be rejected by the society, if found guilty. Even stealing a carton of milk can cost you your friendship. On the other hand one can steal millions and walk away with it with his social status intact. That is the ultimate hypocrisy that will not wither away unless we consciously reject it.