

## **SORCERY / WITCHCRAFT IS CONDEMNED**

### **Galatians 5:16-21 clearly states that witchcraft is condemned by God:**

**New American Bible (St. Joseph Edition) states:** *"I say, then: live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh. For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: these are opposed to each other, so that you may not do what you want. But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, **sorcery**, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."*

**Douay-Rheims Bible states:** *"I say then, walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit: and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are contrary one to another: so that you do not the things that you would. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are fornication, uncleanness, immodesty, luxury, idolatry, **witchcrafts**, enmities, contentions, emulations, wraths, quarrels, dissensions, sects, envies, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like. Of the which, I fore tell you, as I have foretold to you, that they who do such things shall not obtain the kingdom of God."* The Catholic Catechism states in Para 2115, 2116, 2117 and 2138:

### **"YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME" (Exodus 20:3)**

**2110** *The First Commandment forbids honoring gods other than the one Lord who has revealed himself to His people. It proscribes superstition and irreligion. Superstition in some sense represents a perverse excess of religion; irreligion is the vice contrary by defect to the virtue of religion.*

**2112** *The First Commandment condemns POLYTHEISM. It requires man neither to believe in, nor to venerate, other divinities than the one true God. Scripture constantly recalls this rejection of "idols, [of] silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see." These empty idols make their worshippers empty: "Those who make them are like them; so are all who trust in them." God, however, is the "living God" who gives life and intervenes in history.*

**2113** *Idolatry not only refers to false pagan worship. It remains a constant temptation to faith. Idolatry consists in divinizing what is not God. Man commits idolatry whenever he honors and reveres a creature in place of God, whether this be gods or demons (for example, satanism), power, pleasure, race ancestors, the state, money, etc. Jesus says, "You cannot serve God and mammon." Many martyrs died for not adoring "the Beast" refusing even to simulate such worship. Idolatry rejects the unique Lordship of God; it is therefore incompatible with communion with God.*

**2114** *Human life finds its unity in the adoration of the one God. The Commandment to worship the Lord alone integrates man and saves him from an endless disintegration. Idolatry is a perversion of man's innate religious sense. An idolater is someone who "transfers his indestructible notion of God to anything other than God.*

**2115** *God can reveal the future to his prophets or to other saints. Still, a sound Christian attitude consists in putting, oneself confidently into the hands of Providence for whatever concerns the future, and giving up all unhealthy curiosity about it. Improvidence, however, can constitute a lack of responsibility.*

**2116** *All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to 'unveil' the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history and in the last analysis, other human beings as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God along.*

**2117** *All practices of magic or sorcery, by which one attempts to tame occult powers, so as to place them at one's service and have a supernatural power over others - even if this were for the sake of restoring their health - are gravely contrary to the virtue of religion. These practices are even more to be condemned when accompanied by the intention of harming someone, or when they have recourse to the intervention of demons. Wearing charms is also reprehensible. Spiritism often implies divination or magical practices; the Church for her part warns the faithful against it. Recourse to so-called traditional cures does not justify either the invocation of evil powers or the exploitation of another's credulity.*

**2138** *Superstition is a departure from the worship that we give to the true God. It is manifested in idolatry, as well as in various forms of divination and magic.*

### ***PUNISHMENT FROM THE LORD FOR IDOLATRY***

**Exodus 20:1-6 states:**

Verse 1: And the Lord spoke all these words:

Verse 2: I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Verse 3: Thou shalt not have strange gods before me.

Verse 4: Thou shalt not make to thyself a graven thing, nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, nor of those things that are in the waters under the earth.

Verse 5: Thou shalt not adore them, nor serve them; I am the Lord thy God, mighty, jealous: ***visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me:***

Verse 6: And showing mercy unto thousands to them that love me, and keep my commandments.

### ***HOLY CHURCH IMAGES, PICTURES OR REPRESENTATIONS ARE NOT IDOLATRY***

The Douay-Rheims Bible distinguishes the differences between the worship of idols or pictures, images or other representations (like statues) that are in the church as follows pertaining to Verse 4: ***“All such images, or likenesses, are forbidden by this commandment, as are made to be adored and served; according to that which immediately follows, Thou shalt not adore them, nor serve the. That is, all such as are designed for idols or image-gods, or are worshiped with divine honour.”*** But otherwise images, pictures, or representations, even in the house of God, and in the very sanctuary so far from being forbidden, are expressly authorized by the Word of God. See these Scriptures:

- Exodus 25:15
- Exodus 38:7
- Numbers 21:8-9
- 1 Chronicals or Paralipomenon 28:18-19
- 2 Chronicals or Paralipomenon 3:10

Here are a few areas that many find themselves trapped into: **Horoscope reading, Fortune Telling, Palm Reading all forms of occult practices like Voodoo, Numerology, Personality Tests and the like.**