

# Diagnosis & Treatment for a Better World

## The Disease – “Indifference” - Elie Wiesel<sup>1</sup>

The opposite of love is not hate. It is indifference.

The opposite of art is not ugliness. It is indifference.

The opposite of faith is not heresy. It is indifference.

And the opposite of life is not death. It is indifference.

## The Antidote – A Virtuous Life

A Virtue is a “firm disposition to do the good ...not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of... [oneself]. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions.”<sup>2</sup>

## The Prescription – The Natural Virtues - WISDOM 8:7<sup>3</sup>

“And if a man love righteousness her labours are virtues: for she teacheth *temperance and prudence, justice and fortitude*: which are such things, as men can have nothing more profitable in their life.”

**\*\*Prudence** – “disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it.”<sup>4</sup>

**\*\*Justice** – “the constant and firm will to give our due to GOD and neighbor.”<sup>5</sup>

**\*\*Fortitude** – “firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good.”<sup>6</sup>

**\*\*Temperance** – “moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods.”<sup>7</sup>

## The Cure – Theological Virtues - I CORINTHIANS 13:13<sup>8</sup>

“And now abide *faith, hope, love*, these three; but the greatest of these is *love*.”

**\*\*Faith** – to “believe in GOD and believe all that He has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because He is Truth itself.”<sup>9</sup>

**\*\*Hope** – to “desire The Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in CHRIST's Promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the Grace of The HOLY SPIRIT.”<sup>10</sup>

**\*\*Love** – to “love GOD above all things for His Own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of GOD.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Poem, “Indifference.” Elie Wiesel. QuotationsBook. Retrieved 9/26/2010.

<http://www.quotationsbook.com/quote/20727/>

<sup>2</sup> Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 1803, “The Virtues.”

<sup>3</sup> King James Version Bible with Apocrypha, WISDOM 8:7.

<sup>4</sup> Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 1806, “Prudence.”

<sup>5</sup> Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 1807, “Justice.”

<sup>6</sup> Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 1808, “Fortitude.”

<sup>7</sup> Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 1809, “Temperance.”

<sup>8</sup> New King James Version Bible, I CORINTHIANS 13:13.

<sup>9</sup> Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 1814, “Faith.”

<sup>10</sup> Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 1817, “Hope.”

<sup>11</sup> Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 1822, “Charity,” meaning Love.