FROM THE BALTIMORE CATECHISM:

Study Lesson NUMBER 41:

## THE COMMANDMENTS

THE COMMANDMENTS SHOW US HOW WE MUST LIVE. The Ten Commandments were given by God to Moses. Our Lord handed on these commandments to His Church and gave it power to make new laws as time went on. Therefore, we have the Six Commandments of the Church.

The religion of Christ is not just a body of truths to be believed as we believe the truths in a geography book or in a book of arithmetic. It is above all a WAY OF LIFE. It means that we become one with Christ, living His life, imitating His actions, and following the directions of His laws. Once a truth has been determined to be a truth (Example 2 + 2 = 4) no one can change that truth. The above example will always be a truth - in every case, in every place, at all times, and understood by all peoples, and FOR ALL TIME. Circumstances will NEVER be able to change that truth. Thus it is with the entire body of Truth. We might say it in this way:

TRUTH = GOD

Present day Theologians and Philosophers are telling us that it is not necessary for 2 + 2 = 4 ALL THE TIME. They tell us that there are times and under certain circumstances when 2 + 2 = 7!!! Consequently, they are systematically taking each and every OFFICIAL TRUTH of our Holy Religion, and they are telling us, that because of certain needs or consensus opinion of groups of people, and because TIME changes the elements of truth, what was OR MAY HAVE BEEN TRUE yesterday, is not necessarily true today. This is quite impossible, but the very baffling thing is, that so many people believe what they are saying, and many of these people are the superiors of our Church!

Can we be saved if we do not fully believe what God has revealed?

We cannot be saved if we do not fully believe what God has revealed.

Besides believing what God has revealed, what else must we do to be saved?

Besides believing what God has revealed, we must keep his law.

Which are the two great commandments that contain the whole law of God?

The two great commandments that contain the whole law of God are:

- (1) Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind, and with thy whole strength.
- (2) Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

LOVE is the most important of the commandments. Our love (NOT LUV) must go first to God and then to all God's children, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

All the other commandments simply show us in detain how we are to love God and our neighbor. "If you love Me, keep my commentments" - (John 12-15)