

# Pastoral constitution on the Church in the modern world - promulgated by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on December 7, 1965

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## Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern Word

For man has in his heart a law written by God; to obey it is the very dignity of man; according to it he will be judged. As long as they fulfill this role properly, they are making a genuine contribution to the establishment of peace. Thus they will be able to interpret and evaluate all things in a truly Christian spirit.

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If the political community is not to be torn apart while everyone follows his own opinion, there must be an authority to direct the energies of all citizens toward the common good, not in a mechanical or despotic fashion, but by acting above all as a moral force which appeals to each one's freedom and sense of responsibility. In addition to the factors of change associated with urbanization and industrialization, the enormous growth of the mass media increasingly influences people's daily lives in every corner of the earth. Through Christ and in Christ, the riddles of sorrow and death grow meaningful.

## Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World: et

Economic development must remain under man's determination and must not be left to the judgment of a few men or groups possessing too much economic power or of the political community alone or of certain more powerful nations. Here by the world is meant that spirit of vanity and malice which transforms into an instrument of sin those human energies intended for the service of God and man.

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Therefore it is necessary to provide all with a sufficient quantity of cultural benefits, especially of those which constitute the so-called fundamental culture lest very many be prevented from cooperating in the promotion of the common good in a truly human manner because of illiteracy and a

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