

## Gaudium Et Spes Part 1: Chapter IV: The Role of the Church in the Modern World

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Gaudium et Spes is the longest document that emerged from Vatican II and was derived by a committee and not a single author. Gaudium et Spes translates into “joy and hope.” Our church fathers had this in mind when writing this constitution. Their “hope” is to transfigure the world to Christ through the human race. In a lecture by Bishop Barron he eludes that “the Church fathers recognized the olden rabbi’s in their conclusion that the purpose of the human race was to Edenize or Christify the world, or to turn the whole world into a beautiful garden.”

The role of the Church in the modern world exists because of God’s love for us. Jesus Christ was, is and always will be the head of the Church. The Church is the thread that unites all of us to God. We work as a collective toward one goal and that is eternal life. The dignity of the human person, the human community, human activity, and the Church all form the collective that I will refer to as the “soul of life.” If we take one part away, the rest suffer to some extent because we were not meant to be separated from one another. We were meant to work as a cohesive unit, and the greatest example I know to relate to this bond would be the “Trinity.” The Father works from Heaven, the Son works from Earth, and the Holy Spirit works in each of us. They all do their part and are in union with each other at all times.

So how can the church keep up with the ever-growing demands, temptations, and downright sinful nature the world has grown to produce as our forbidden fruit in the garden? How do we keep our faith in God and the teachings of Christ when we have so many diversions and shiny things to follow?

Simply put the Church is a sanctuary from everyday life and its temptations, and The Bible, Catechism and Vatican documents, such as Gaudium Et Spes, are the Church’s guidelines on how to achieve this goal. I feel we the Lay Members are called to evangelize our communities. It is time we stop thinking that we are not formed enough and trust in God and rely on the gifts of the Holy Spirit to guide us in our journey to bring souls to Christ. We all must take a stand and profess our faith out loud, because if we keep to the shadows and fall back we are going to lose our Churches to those that think it is their right to tear them down and destroy them. Together with God’s help we will make it to heaven, because with faith in God all things are possible.