

Pius IX, Syllabus of Errors

Selected propositions: 15–18 and 77–80 (1864)

Transcription: EWTN, 'Syllabus of Errors' (ewtn.com/catholicism/library/syllabus-of-errors-9048)

Reading note: each numbered statement below is a proposition that Pius IX condemned as an error. The document therefore rejects, rather than endorses, these claims.

Selected propositions

15. Every man is free to embrace and profess that religion which, guided by the light of reason, he shall consider true. — Allocution ‘Maxima quidem,’ June 9, 1862; Damnatio ‘Multiplices inter,’ June 10, 1851.

16. Man may, in the observance of any religion whatever, find the way of eternal salvation, and arrive at eternal salvation. — Encyclical ‘Qui pluribus,’ Nov. 9, 1846.

17. Good hope at least is to be entertained of the eternal salvation of all those who are not at all in the true Church of Christ. — Encyclical ‘Quanto conficiamur,’ Aug. 10, 1863, etc.

18. Protestantism is nothing more than another form of the same true Christian religion, in which form it is given to please God equally as in the Catholic Church. — Encyclical ‘Noscitis,’ Dec. 8, 1849.

77. In the present day it is no longer expedient that the Catholic religion should be held as the only religion of the State, to the exclusion of all other forms of worship. — Allocution ‘Nemo vestrum,’ July 26, 1855.

78. Hence it has been wisely decided by law, in some Catholic countries, that persons coming to reside therein shall enjoy the public exercise of their own peculiar worship. — Allocution ‘Acerbissimum,’ Sept. 27, 1852.

79. Moreover, it is false that the civil liberty of every form of worship, and the full power, given to all, of overtly and publicly manifesting any opinions whatsoever and thoughts, conduce more easily to corrupt the morals and minds of the people, and to propagate the pest of indifferentism. — Allocution ‘Nunquam fore,’ Dec. 15, 1856.

80. The Roman Pontiff can, and ought to, reconcile himself, and come to terms with progress, liberalism and modern civilization. — Allocution ‘Jamdudum cernimus,’ March 18, 1861.