

Jesus + _____ = Salvation

A Biblical Study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC): Bible Answers to the Most FAQs about Catholic Beliefs & Practices (PART 2)

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What about Mass?

- “**the Church**, a pilgrim now on earth, **is necessary for salvation**” (CCC 846)
- “**They could not be saved who**, knowing that the Catholic Church was founded as necessary by God through Christ, **would refuse to enter it** or to remain in it” (CCC 846)
- Tobit 4:11 “For **alms deliver from all sin**, and from death, and will not suffer the soul to go into darkness.”
- Tobit 12:9 “For **alms delivereth from death**, and the same is that which **purgeth away sins**, and maketh to find mercy and life everlasting.”

VS

- Romans 10:9–10 “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” (ESV)
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (ESV)

What about Sacraments?

- “The Church affirms that for believers the **sacraments** of the New Covenant **are necessary for salvation.**” (CCC 1129)
- “Through the Church’s sacraments, Christ **communicates his Holy and sanctifying Spirit** to the members of his Body.” (CCC 739)
- “The communion of the sacraments...**unite us to God**” (CCC 951)

VS

- Ephesians 2:8–9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (ESV)
- John 1:12–13 “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, [13] who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” (ESV)

What about Baptism?

- “By baptism all sins are forgiven” (CCC 1263)
- “Justified by faith in Baptism” (CCC 1271)

VS.

- Titus 3:5 “he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” (ESV)

What about Confirmation?

- “**Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace**; it is the sacrament which **gives the Holy Spirit**” (CCC 1316)
- “Confirmation ... **unites us more firmly to Christ**” (CCC 1303)

VS.

- Ephesians 1:13–14 “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” (ESV)
- Romans 8:38–39 “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (ESV)

What about the Eucharist?

- “by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place **a change** of the whole substance of the **bread into** the substance of the **body** of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the **wine into** the substance of his **blood**. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation” (CCC 1376)
- “its salutary **power** be applied **to the forgiveness of sins** we daily commit” (CCC 1366)
- “*Holy Communion* because **by this sacrifice we unite ourselves to Christ**.” (CCC 1331)

VS.

- John 6:35 “Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.'” (ESV)
- John 6:40 “For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life”
- 1 Corinthians 11:25–29 “In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” [26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. [27] Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. [28] Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. [29] For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.” (ESV)
- Matthew 28:20 “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (ESV)

Does our Eucharist help the dead?

Do we connect to the dead through the Eucharist?

- “In the *intercessions*, the Church indicates that the Eucharist is celebrated in communion with the whole Church in heaven and on earth, the living and the dead.” (CCC 1354)
- “To the offering of Christ are united not only the members still here on earth, but also those already in the glory of heaven. In communion with and commemorating the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, the Church offers the Eucharistic sacrifice.” (CCC 1370)
- “**The Eucharistic sacrifice is also offered for the faithfully departed** who ‘have died in Christ but are not yet wholly purified,’ **so that they may be able to enter into the light & peace of Christ**” (CCC 1371)
- “**We pray for the holy fathers and bishops who have fallen asleep, and in general for all who have fallen asleep before us, in the belief that there is great benefit to the souls on whose behalf the supplication is offered**” (CCC 1371)

Merriam-Webster's Definitions to Consider:

Necromancy - the practice of talking to the spirits of dead people

Medium - a person through whom other persons try to communicate with the spirits of the dead

Prayer - an address (such as a petition) to God or a god in word or thought

VS.

- Deuteronomy 18:10–12 “There shall not be found among you...a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.” (ESV)
- Isaiah 8:19 "should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?"
- 1 Chronicles 10:13–14 "So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the LORD in that he did not keep the command of the LORD, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance.

What about Penance?

- “It is called the *sacrament of forgiveness*, since by the priest’s sacramental absolution God grants the penitent ‘pardon and peace.’” (CCC 1424)
- “One who desires **to obtain reconciliation with God** and with the Church, **must confess to a priest** all the unconfessed grave sins he remembers after having carefully examined his conscience.” (CCC 1493)
- “**Only priests** who have received the faculty of absolving from the authority of the Church **can forgive sins** in the name of Christ.” (1495)

VS.

- Romans 8:1–2 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” (ESV)
- Romans 8:39 "nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (ESV)
- 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (ESV)

What about Peter? What about Priests?

- **The power to ‘bind and loose’ connotes the authority to absolve sins, to pronounce doctrinal judgments, and to make disciplinary judgments in the Church.” (CCC 553)**
- “Jesus entrusted this authority to the Church through the ministry of the apostles and in particular through the ministry of Peter, the only one to whom he specifically **entrusted the keys of the kingdom**” (CCC 553)

VS.

- Why does Jesus, right after this affirmation to Peter, then rebuke Peter and say “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”? (Matthew 16:21-23 ESV). Is this a characteristic of Papal Infallibility?
- In parallel accounts (Mark 8:27-30 & Luke 9:20), why does Jesus not mention the claim of Peter being the rock of the church and having the keys to “bind and loose”? If it is that important to the Church why is it only mentioned one place in the Bible?
- What about when Peter was wrong...correcting Jesus (John 13:8-10), doubting Jesus with little faith (Matthew 14:30-31), rebuking Jesus (Matthew 16:22-23), misunderstanding the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8), questioning Jesus, promising to never abandon Jesus (Matthew 26:33-35), falling asleep on the Mount of Transfiguration and the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 9:32 and Matthew 26:40-43), impulsive (John 18:10-11), abandoning Jesus (Matthew 26:56), denying Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75) to in His presence (Luke 22:61), blame shifting (John 21:21), refusing to obey

God's voice in a vision (Acts 10:13-16), and being hypocritically legalistic and exclusive ("not in step with the truth of the Gospel" Galatians 2:11-14). How do we process that with claims of Papal infallibility? Why did Paul correct him if Peter was the first Pope?

- "In the forgiveness of sins, both priests and sacraments are instruments through which our Lord Jesus Christ, the only author and liberal giver of salvation, wills to use in order to efface our sins and give us the grace of justification" (CCC 987)

VS.

- If Peter has the authority to forgive sins (per CCC 982, 986, 987), where does he do that in the Bible? Like the ways in which Jesus expresses His authority to forgive sins (Matthew 9:6, Mark 2:10, Luke 5:24; 7:49, Acts 10:43, Colossians 1:14, 1 John 1:9) ?

Did Peter have Authority Over all the Apostles?

- **"The sole Church of Christ [is that] which our Savior, after his Resurrection, entrusted to Peter's pastoral care, commissioning him and the other apostles to extend and rule it. ... This Church, constituted and organized as a society in the present world, subsists in (*subsistit in*) the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him."** (CCC 816)
- **"Just as the office which the Lord confided to Peter alone, as first of the apostles, destined to be transmitted to his successors, is a permanent one, so also endures the office...** Hence the Church teaches that 'the bishops have by divine institution taken the place of the apostles as pastors of the Church, in such wise that **whoever listens to them is listening to Christ and whoever despises them despises Christ and him who sent Christ**" (CCC 862)

VS.

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church references Jesus' "choice of the Twelve with Peter as their head" (CCC 765) and solely references Mark 3:14-15 for the evidence of this claim. Does Mark 3:14-15 reference Peter as the head of the church in any Bible? Why not?
- Acts 5:29 "But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men.'" (ESV). If he was also asserting Papal infallibility and the Magisterium of the Church?

Did Peter Refer to Himself as a Pope? Bishop?

- 1 Peter 1:1 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ" & 2 Peter 1:1 "a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ"
- 1 Corinthians 1:12-17 "What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "**I follow Cephas,**" or "I follow Christ." [13] **Is Christ divided?** ... [17] For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power." (ESV)
- 1 Corinthians 3:21-23 "**So let no one boast in men.** For all things are yours, [22] **whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas** or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, [23] and **you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.**" (ESV)

Was Peter Married? Is Priestly Celibacy Biblical?

- "All the ordained ministers of the Latin Church, with the exception of permanent deacons are normally chosen from among men of faith who **live a celibate life** and who intend to remain celibate 'for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.'" (CCC 1579)
- "Celibacy is a sign of this new life of the service of which the Church's minister is consecrated; accepted with a joyous heart celibacy radiantly proclaims the Reign of God." (CCC 1579)

VS.

- 1 Corinthians 9:5 "Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?" (ESV)

WHAT IS VENERATION?

*Our word usage matters...what do we mean by the words we use?
Are they accurate descriptions of our actions?*

Merriam-Webster's Definitions:

Veneration - "respect or awe inspired by the dignity, wisdom, dedication, or talent of a person"

Worship - "excessive admiration of or devotion to a person"

Adoration - "strong feelings of love or admiration"

Sacred - "worthy of religious veneration, holy,
dedicated or set apart for the service or worship of a deity"

Prayer - "an address (such as a petition) to God or a god in word or thought"

Genuflect - "to touch the knee to the floor or ground especially in worship"

What about Mary?

Is Mary the Cause for Salvation?

- **"Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race." (CCC 494)**
 - "Death through Eve, life through Mary." (CCC 494)
 - "The Virgin Mary 'cooperated through free faith and obedience in human salvation. ... By her obedience she became the new Eve, mother of the living.'" (CCC 511)
 - "by your prayers, will deliver our souls from death" (CCC 966)
 - "restoring supernatural life to souls" (CCC 968)
 - "the Blessed Virgin...under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix" (CCC 969)
- VS.
- John 10:28 "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish"
 - 1 John 2:1 "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (ESV)
 - Romans 5:18 "Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men." (ESV)
 - 1 Corinthians 15:45 "Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit." (ESV)
 - John 14:16 "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever" (ESV)
 - 1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (ESV)

Was Mary Sinless?

- "the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin" (CCC 966)
 - "her complete adherence to the Father's will" (CCC 967)
 - "Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long" (CCC 493)
- VS.
- 1 John 1:8 "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (ESV)
 - Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (ESV)

Was Mary a Virgin for Life?

- “led the Church to confess Mary’s real and **perpetual virginity**” (CCC 499)
- “Mary ‘remained...always a virgin’” (CCC 510)

VS.

- Matthew 1:24–25 “When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.” (ESV)
- John 7:5 “For not even his brothers believed in him.” (ESV)

Is It True that Mary Never Died?

- “the Immaculate Virgin...was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things” (CCC 966)
- “she shares in the glory of her Son’s Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body” (CCC 974)

VS.

- Acts 2:32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.”
- 2 Kings 2:11 “And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”
- Hebrews 11:5 “By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.” (ESV)

What about the Saints (the Dead)? What about Angels?

- “**We can pray with and to her.** The prayer of the Church is sustained by the prayer of Mary” (CCC 2679)
- “The witnesses...especially those whom the Church recognizes as saints...constantly care for those whom have left on the earth. Their intercession is their most exalted service to God’s plan. **We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world.**” (CCC 2683)
- “it is a holy and wholesome thought **to pray for the dead** that they may be loosed from their sins’ she offers suffrages for them” (CCC 958)
- “In prayer, the pilgrim Church is associated with that of **the saints, whose intercession she asks**” (CCC 2692)
- “The Church encourages us to prepare ourselves for the house of death. ... **to ask the Mother of God to intercede for us** ‘at the hour of our death’ in the *Hail Mary*; and **to entrust ourselves to St. Joseph**, the patron of a happy death” (CCC 1014)
- “This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture: “Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from sin.” (CCC 1032)
- “the Church...invokes their [the angels] assistance in the funeral...’May the angels lead you into Paradise...she celebrates the memory of certain angels more particularly ? (St. Michael, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael, and the guardian angels” (CCC 335)
- “Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life” (CCC 336)
- “The Church venerates the angels who help her on her earthly pilgrimage and protect every human being.” (CCC 352)

VS.

- Deuteronomy 18:10–12 “There shall not be found among you...a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.” (ESV)
- Isaiah 8:19 “should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?”
- 1 Chronicles 10:13–14 “So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the LORD in that he did not keep the command of the LORD, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance.
- Colossians 2:16–19 “Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. [17] These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. [18] Let no one disqualify you, ***insisting on asceticism and worship of angels... and not holding fast to the Head,***”
- Revelation 22:8–9 “I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, **I fell down** to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, [9] but he said to me, “You must not do that! **I am a fellow servant with you** and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” (ESV)

What about Purgatory? What about Indulgences?

- **“we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come” (CCC 1031)**
- **“The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead” (CCC 1032)**
- **“Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them” (CCC 1032)**
- **“An indulgence...removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin. The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead.” (CCC 1471)**
- **“This treasury includes as well the prayers and good works of the Blessed Virgin Mary” (CCC 1477)**
- **“In this treasury too, are the prayers and good works of all the saints” (CCC 1477)**
- **“In this way they attained their own salvation and at the same time cooperated in saving their brothers” (CCC 1477)**

VS.

- Philippians 1:23 “My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:8 **“we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”**
- Luke 23:43 “Truly, I say to you, **today** you will be with me in **paradise.**” (ESV)
- Colossians 2:13–14 “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, [14] by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.” (ESV)

What about Images/Icons/Statues? What about Objects (relics and rosaries)?

Merriam-Webster's Definitions to Consider:

Icon - "an object of uncritical devotion; a religious image usually painted on a small wooden panel"

Idol - "an object of extreme devotion; a greatly loved or admired person; a picture or object that is worshipped as a god"

Amulet - a small object worn to protect the person wearing it against bad things (such as illness, bad luck, etc.)

Charm - something worn about the person to ward off evil or ensure good fortune

Fetish - an object of irrational reverence or obsessive devotion

- "the Christian veneration of images is not contrary to the first commandment which proscribes idols. ... 'whoever venerates an image venerates the person portrayed in it.' The honor paid to the sacred image is a 'respectful veneration,' not the adoration due to God alone" (CCC 2132)
- "The veneration of sacred images is based on the mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. It is not contrary to the first commandment." (CCC 2141)
- "holy images of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, our inviolate Lady, the holy Mother of God, and the venerated angels, all the saints and the just, whether painted or made of mosaic or another suitable material, are to be exhibited in the holy churches of God, on sacred vessels and vestments, walls and panels, in houses and on streets" (CCC 1161)

VS.

- Deuteronomy 4:16–19 "beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female"
- Deuteronomy 5:8–10 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. [9] You shall not bow down to them or serve them"
- Psalm 97:7 "All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods!" (ESV)
- Colossians 2:18 "Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind" (ESV)

Ephesians 2:8–10 "For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**.

And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (ESV)