

“Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence” (1 Peter 3:15)

One True Church

The Catholic Church was the only Christian Church until the Protestant Reformation in 1522 and it contains the fullness of truth as revealed in scripture and sacred tradition. All other churches have only a partial truth at best.

Three Possibilities Regarding Christianity:

1. Jesus established more than one church.
2. Jesus established an invisible, abstract, spiritual church in which all believers, regardless of denomination, are members. In this church, either:
 - (1) Doctrine does not matter, or
 - (2) Conflicting and contradictory doctrines are acceptable.
3. Jesus established ***One Church***, which is visible and in which doctrine matters and does not conflict. This church contains the fullness of truth as revealed by God; all others have partial truth, at best.

“If I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth”. (1 Tim 3:15)

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my **Church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it**. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven'" (Matt. 16:18-19).

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the **church**; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” (Matt 18:15-17)

What church do you tell it to if they all teach conflicting doctrines? You must find the Church which Christ founded.

St. Paul says: “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,” (Col 1:24) **Christ’s Body is the Church.**

“Husbands love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” (Eph 5:25-27)

“And I have other sheep , that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there will be **one** flock, **one** shepard.” (John 10:16)

“ And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, (John 14:16) **The Holy Spirit will be with the Apsotles and the Church forever.**

Jesus Prays: “Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be **one**, even as we are **one**.” (John 17:11)

“There is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as you were called to the **one** hope that belongs that belongs to your call, **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, **one** God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.” (Eph 4:4 -7)

“I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be **no dissensions among you**, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.” (1 Cor 1:10)

“If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ”. (Mk 3:24-25)

Jesus condemns interdenominationalism and conflicting doctrines!

“Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. (Act 20:28) **Jesus purchased his church with his blood and left the Holy Spirit to oversee it.**

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,...” (Eph 5:25)

"In order that He might present to Himself to the Church in all her glory, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she might be holy and without blemish," (Eph 5:27)

“And going down to Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem, and saluted the church, and so came down to Antioch” (Acts 18:22)

“For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.” (1Cor.15:9) **The Church had to be visible if Paul persecuted it!**

“And I answered, `Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, `I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.” (Acts 26:15)**Paul did not physically persecute Jesus, but Jesus tells Paul since he was persecuting His Church he was persecuting Him. The Church was visible!**

“Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it.” (Psalms 127:1)

“Where the Bishop appears, there let the people be, just as where Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.” St. Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Smyrneans 8, 107 A.D. **The early Church Christians mentioned by name, the Catholic Church. The Church was visible!**

Once Saved Always Saved?

Catholic's believe that we are saved by God's grace and that our salvation can be affected by our sins. We must continually work out our salvation and Christ left us his Church to guide us and teach us the way to salvation. Sin leads to death and just because you accept Jesus into your heart it does not mean that sin no longer affects your salvation as most protestants believe. Once saved, always saved stems from “sola fide” (faith alone) which can be shown to be false, therefore the idea of once saved, always saved crumbles.

“Do you not know that if you yield yourself to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?” (Rom 6:15-16)

Even St. Paul isn't sure if his salvation: “that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that **if possible** I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (Phil 3: 10-11)

St. Paul says: Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air; but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:26-27) – **Paul seems to be worried about his own salvation.**

“If anyone sees his brother sinning, if the sin is not deadly, he should pray to God and he will give him life. This is only for those whose sin is not deadly. There is such a thing as deadly sin, about which I do not say that you should pray. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not deadly.” (1 Jn 5:16-17) - **shows that even though you have been saved you can still sin and that sin can lead to death. Doesn't sound like once saved always saved! This verse also backs up the Catholic belief of venial and mortal sins.**

“Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Gal 5:19-21)

“and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matt 10-22). **Why endure if we have been saved?**

“He who says "I know him" but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him;” (1 John 2:4) **We must believe the correct truth in order to be saved. Truth is not subjective to our own fallible interpretation.**

“There is no partiality with God.” (Rom 2:11) **Unless you’re saved? Doesn’t say this!**

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phil 2:12-13)

Why work out your own salvation if you’ve been saved?

“Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off.” (Rom 11:22)

“This charge I commit to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophetic utterances which pointed to you, that inspired by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith, (1 Tim 1:18-19) - **shows that it is possible to fail in your faith.**

“You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.” (Matt. 5:27-30) **Sins can lead to death!**

“Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. He who does good is of God; he who does evil has not seen God.” (1John 1:11) **Unless you’re saved? Doesn’t say this!**

“ For the love of money is the root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced their hearts with many pangs.” (1 Tim 6:10)

“ but my righteous one shall live by faith,and if he shrinks back,my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and keep their souls.” (Heb 10:38-39)

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.” (Matt 7:1-2) **“Once Saved” believers may not realize it but they are actually casting judgment onto themselves by declaring themselves “saved”.**

“The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son” (John 5:22) **We cannot judge ourselves as saved!**

Sola Fide (Faith Alone) & Works

Martin Luther invented the theology that we are saved by faith alone and that works have no affect on our salvation. The Catholic Church and the Bible teach otherwise.

"You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone" (James. 2:24).

(THE ONLY PLACE WHERE THE WORDS "FAITH ALONE" APPEAR IN THE BIBLE)

"So **faith**, hope, love abide, these three; but the **greatest of these is love**. "(1 Cor 13:13)

"and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing." (1 Cor 13:2)

"Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

"Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." (Matt. 19:17)

"Jesus said to him "If you would be perfect go and sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven, and come, follow me." (Matt. 19:21)

(Jesus speaks to the disciples) "But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire." (Matt 5:22)

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matt 6:14-15) **Something Jesus says we must do is to forgive others!**

"I tell you, on the day of judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matt 12:36-37) **Doesn't say faith alone!**

"But we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will." (Acts 15:11) **Saved by Grace.**

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." (Mark2:5) **If he had faith, why did Jesus feel the need to forgive his sins?**

"Examine yourselves, to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? -- unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" (2Cor 13:5)

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now **saves you**, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (1 Peter 3:21) **Can faith alone replace the need for baptism if it alone saves?**

“which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his **grace** and become heirs in hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:6-7) **Does not say justified by Faith Alone as Martin Luther said.**

“For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done.” (Matt 16:27)

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

“When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?’ And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me. Then he will say to those at his left hand, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they also will answer, Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee? Then he will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me. And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matt 25:31-46) **Nowhere do these verses say we will be judged by our faith alone.**

“Why do you call me "Lord, Lord," and not do what I tell you?” (Luke 6:46).

(Romans 1:5-6) “through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ” (*Later in Romans 5:6*) “ For he will render to every man according to his works” **Paul is speaking to the Christian in Rome who have the Faith, yet he still mentions the importants of works.**

“For he will render every man according to his works . . .” (Rom. 5:6 - *Paul quotes Ps 62:12 & Pvrbs 24:12*)

“For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified” (Rom. 2:13).

“For if we sin deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful prospect of judgments . . .” (Heb. 10:26-27).

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God” (Heb. 13:16)

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22)

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Indeed someone might say, "You have faith and I have works."

Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works”. (James 2:14-18) **If you believe that faith alone saves then by this vesre you must also believe that works are required to have a complete faith. An incomplete faith could not save!**

“You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe -- and shudder.” (James 2:19) **Are the demons saved if they believe? Just believing doesn't mean you are saved!**

“Do you want to be shown, you foolish fellow, that faith apart from works is barren?” (James 2:20)

“ You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by works,” (James 2:22)

“For we are of his good workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10)

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.” (2 Cor 5:10)

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love.” (Gal. 5:6)

“Now the works of the flesh are plain: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Gal. 5:19-21)

“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, by what they had done.” (Rev 20:13)

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done.” (Rev 22:12)

“And by this we may be sure that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He who says "I know him" but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps his word, in him truly love for God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him; he who says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” (1 John 2:3-6)

“...and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment” (John 5:29)

“Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned.” (John 15:1-8) **Jesus says you must remain in me not just have faith. This verse also contradicts once saved always saved.**

“And if you invoke as Father him who judges each one impartially according to his deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.” (1Pet 1:15)

“If any one does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his own family, he has disowned the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Tim 5:8)

“All Scripture is inspired by God, and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correcting, for instructing in justice; that the man of God may be perfect, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:16-17)

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

“Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5)

Sola Scriptura (Bible Alone)

When we read the Bible as with any book it is important to understand the message that the author was trying convey. If we interpret the author's words differently then our understanding of what was written would not be the same message that the author intended to convey. Protestants, through the belief in Sola Scriptura come to an understanding of the Bible by reading scripture and then taking a personal interpretation on it's meaning. Their interpretation may or may not be the correct meaning of the bible passage as the author intended. This creates conflicting doctrines – hence the thousands of different churches that have sprung up since the reformation. Protestants will often condemn Catholic teachings on certain scripture passages, however by doing so they are contradicting there own doctrine on interpretation. The Bible clearly supports the Catholic Church's teaching that the Word of God is contained in both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

1. Not all Christian Beliefs are found directly in Scripture.

Example: "Trinity" is not in Scripture. The Catholic Church defined the dogma in 325 at the Council of Nicea against the Arian heresy.

2. The Bible is NOT the sole rule of faith & nowhere in the bible does it say this.

Sola Scriptura is not biblical – It's a man made tradition!

Question: Since non-Catholics claim "the Holy Spirit is guiding them", how can the Holy Spirit be 'telling' each of them a different 'truth'?

Answer: It would seem to me that if all taught the same "truth", then there would be only one Church, not tens of thousands as we now have.

“But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” (John 21:25) **The Bible itself states that it alone does contain everything. Oral tradition is also important!**

“First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” (2 Peter 1:20-21). **Not everyone is always guided by the Holy Spirit when interpreting scripture.**

“So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless **some one guides me?**” (Acts 8:30-31) **Why did he need a guide when all he had to do is rely on the Holy Spirit?**

“So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, speaking of this as he does in all his letters. In these epistles there are certain things difficult to understand, which the unlearned and unstable distort, just as they do the rest of the Scriptures also, to their own destruction.” (2 Peter 3:15-16) **Peter speaking of Paul’s writings. Doesn’t sound like sola scriptura!**

“ And after there had been much debate, **Peter** rose and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made choice among you, that **by my mouth** the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.” (Acts 15:7)

“Hold to the form of sound teaching which thou hast heard from me.....” (2 Tim 1:13)

“Command and teach these things.” (1Tim 4:11)

“For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church” (Eph 5:29) **Would Christ nourish his Church with error and conflicting doctrines? No - truth does not change and God would not allow this.**

“ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and turning to a different gospel -- not that there is another gospel, but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel **contrary to that which we preached to you**, let him be accursed....” (Gal 1:6-8) **There is only one Gospel - no room for infallible personal interpretation here!**

“ for our gospel came to you **not only in word**, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you **became imitators of us** and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit;” (1 Thes 1:5-6)

“ For God is not a God of confusion but of peace..... (1 Cor14:33) **Contradicting doctrines create confusion.**

“he (a Bishop) must hold firm to the sure word as **taught**, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it.” (Titus 1:7-9)

“...yet in the Church, I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may also instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.” (1Cor 14:19) **The true Church is a teaching Church and it does not leave scripture to personal interpretation.**

“ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who possess the Spirit.” (1 Cor 2:13)

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? -- unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” (2Cor 13:5) **We can separate ourselves from the Holy Spirit!**

“ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings All Scripture is inspired by GOD, and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correcting, for instructing in justice; that the man of GOD may be perfect, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:15-17) **This verse does not say that scripture alone is sufficient for salvation as protestants would have you believe. This verse is actually referring to the Old Testament not the New Testament. Also, in light of Sola Fide why should we be equipped for good works? According to sola fide they are not needed.**

“How then are they to call upon Him in whom they have not believed? But how are they to believe Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear, if no one preaches? And how are men to preach unless they be sent?” (Rom 10:14-15) **Doesn't sound like sola scriptura!**

“Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you are not concerned with anyone's opinion. You do not regard a person's status but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.” (Mark 12:14) **Can everyone's personal interpretation of scripture be correct? No!!**

“And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as what it really is, the word of God,...” (1 Thes 2:13)

“Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us” (2 Tim. 1:13-14)

“We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and he who is not of God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” (1 John 4:6) **How do Protestants know that they are not being influenced by the spirit of error when they take a personal interpretation of scripture?**

“Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink, but I hope to come to see you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete” (2 John 1:12). **Nowhere did Christ demand his apostles to write anything down.**

“Any one who goes ahead and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God; he who abides in the doctrine has both the Father and the Son. If any one comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into the house or give him any greeting; for he who greets him shares his wicked work.” (2John 1:9-11) **There is only one doctrine not thousands as we have today.**

“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. (Heb 13: 8-9) **Who spoke to you? Doesn't sound like Bible alone here!**

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26) **Jesus speaking only to his apostles.**

“And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22) **Jesus and his apostles.**

“ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:30-31) **Not everything was written down.**

“I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink;” (3 John 1:13) **What happened to these teachings if they were not written down?**

“ and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:32) **How can different version of the truth set you free? Infallible personal interpretation is not biblical!**

“Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is truth.” (John 17:17)

“ praying earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?” (1 Thes 3:10) **Why did Paul have to supply anything face to face if they had the scriptures?**

“Now in the Church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers, among whom were Barnabas and Simon, called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manahen the fostering brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.” (Acts 13:1) **Why teachers if all we need is the Bible and personal interpretation?**

“ For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from unchastity. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.” (Acts 15:28-29) **Why didn't they just consult the scriptures? Instead the Apostles, in the First Church Council, the Council of Jerusalem made the decision without the Bible!**

“But Saul (Paul) was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.” (Acts 8:3) **Saul became Paul as a Christian convert so obviously the Church had to exist before the bible if this verse is true. Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians, Galatians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Philemon, and Romans all after Christ was crucified. The Bible comes out of the Church not the Church from the Bible as Protestants believe.**

Martin Luther eventually realized the implications that personal interpretation had society.

Luther: *"This one will not hear of Baptism, that one denies the Sacraments, another puts a world between this and the last day: some teach that Christ is not God, some say this, some say that: there are about as many sects and creeds as there are heads. No Yokel is so rude but when he has dreams and fancies, he thinks himself inspired by the Holy Ghost and must be a prophet".* Msgr. Patrick O'Hare, *The Facts about Luther*, P. 208, TAN, Rockford, Illinois, revised ed., republished 1987. This quotation is originally from *De Wette III*, 61.

Scripture and Catholic Tradition

Every Church has Traditions:

1. Sunday as the Sabbath Day – Not in the Bible!!
2. Wednesday night Church meetings. Tradition!
3. Alter calls. Tradition!!
4. Sola Scriptura. Tradition!! Not in the Bible.
5. Faith Alone – Tradition!! Not in the Bible. Oral Tradition
6. Dates of Christian Holidays – Tradition!! Exact dates are not in the Bible.

"I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I have delivered them to you" (1 Cor. 11:2).

"So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter." (2 Thess 2:15)

"Finally, brethren, we beseech and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God.." (1 Thess 4:1)

"You, then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:1-2)

Question: My Protestant friends say that their church goes by the Bible Alone, but that the Catholic Church has added a lot of man-made traditions to the Word of God...is that true?

Answer: No, it is not true. Protestants have as their sole rule of faith the written Word of God, which we find in Sacred Scripture. The Catholic Church has as its sole rule of faith, the entire Word of God, as it is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. All of the Word of God was at one time passed on orally...Sacred Tradition. Eventually, some of Sacred Tradition was written down...this became our bible, which is written tradition. However, Scripture itself tells us that not all of the things that Jesus said and did were written down.

Who Added What to the Bible?

Martin Luther changed the Old Testament to include only 39 books. We have 46. Protestant Reformation occurred in 1517. It was not the Council of Trent that "added" what Protestants call the apocryphal books to the Bible. Instead, the Protestant Reformers excised out of the Bible these books that had been in common use for centuries.

The Council of Trent, convened to reaffirm Catholic doctrines and to revitalize the Church, proclaimed that these books had always belonged to the Bible and had to remain in it. After all, it was the Catholic Church, in the fourth century, at the councils of Rome, Hippo, and Carthage (A.D. 382, 393, 397, respectively), that officially decided which books belonged to the Bible and which did not. This had been reaffirmed by many popes and councils later, including the ecumenical Council of Florence. When the Council of Trent was convened, it merely formally restated the constant teaching of the Church.

There are a number of places in the New Testament that refer directly or indirectly to passages from these O.T. books. For example:

Heb 11:35...2 Maccabees 7:24-29

Matt 6:14...Sirach 28:2

Matt 27:39-42...Wisdom 2:16-20

Rom 1:20...Wisdom 13:1

Rom 1:20-32...Wisdom 13 and 14

Heb 1:3...Wisdom 7:26

James 1:19...Sirach 5:11-13

1 Peter 1:6...Wisdom 3:1-3

The Jewish people of the Greek world added these books to their Bible and considered them sacred while the Jewish people of Palestine continued with the shorter Hebrew Bible. It wasn't until the late second or third century that the Hebrew Jews canonized the shorter version of the Bible. By that time the early Christians had already been using the Greek Septuagint Old Testament as sacred scripture. This is why the Catholic Church's Bible contains more books than protestant Bibles. One more thing to consider is that while it is true that God's written word was entrusted to the Jews, God never provided the Jews with an inspired table of contents.

Non Catholics may also insist that the Council of Trent added seven books to bring the total number of books to 73. They point to the fact that the *Council of Jamnia (90-95 AD)* removed those books from the Bible, so they were never in the Bible from that date on. The *Council of Jamnia* did indeed remove those 7 books, but the fact of the matter is that *Jamnia was not a Christian council, but a Jewish one, called specifically to counter Christianity. The Christian Bible has always contained 47 OT books!*

Something else to consider: If the Bible contains all the information that's needed for salvation as Protestants believe, then where in the Bible is the list of Books that should be contained in the Bible? There is no such list in the Bible! This obviously contradicts the protestant belief in Sola Scriptura (The Bible Alone).

Martin Luther remarked several years after he separated from the Church: "We concede - as we must - that so much of what they [the Catholic Church] say is true: that the papacy has God's word and the office of the apostles, and that we have *received Holy Scriptures*, Baptism, the Sacrament, and the pulpit from them. What would we know of these if it were not for them?" *Sermon on the gospel of St. John, chaps. 14 - 16 (1537), in vol. 24 of LUTHER'S WORKS, St. Louis, Mo., Concordia, 1961, 304*

The Papacy, Church Authority, & Apostolic Succession **Church Authority from a few scripture verses.....**

"And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the **body of Christ.**" (Eph 4:11-12) **Paul says:** "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of **his body, that is, the church,**" (Col 1:24) **Christ's body is his Church. The Church is made up of prophets, evangelists, pastors (priests), and teachers, but who will lead them? The Bible? No the Church!!** "If I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth". (1 Tim 3:15) **This is why we have the Pope, our bishops, priests, deacons, lay teachers, and etc. who follow the traditions which the Church received from Christ and has taught for the last 2000 years.** "So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth (**oral tradition**) or by letter (**scripture**)" (2 Thess. 2:15) **We have the full word of God in Scripture and oral tradition!** "You, then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:1-2).

Papacy.....

"And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called **Peter** . . ." (Matt. 10:1-2).

"For even if I boast somewhat more about our **authority**, which the Lord has given for your upbuilding, and not for your destruction, I shall not be put to shame." (2Cor 10:8)
"And I tell you, you are **Peter**, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven'" (Matt. 16:18-19).

“**Simon, Simon**, behold Satan has demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren” (Luke 22:31-32). **Jesus states that He prayed for Peter only and not all the brethren. Why?**

"He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, ‘So you are **Simon** the son of John? You shall be called **Cephas**’ (which means Peter the Rock)" (John 1:42).

“I appeal to you, brethren, to take note of those who create dissensions and difficulties, in opposition to the doctrine which you have been taught; avoid them.. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by fair and flattering words they deceive the hearts of the simple-minded.” (Romans 16:17-18)

“And after there had been much debate, **Peter** rose and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made choice among you, that **by my mouth** the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.” (Acts 15:7) **Peter shows his authority.**

“And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to **Simon!**" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.” (Luke 24:33-36) **Jesus appeared to Peter first before the other apostles.**

“And he (an angel of the Lord) said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid But go, tell his disciples and **Peter** that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." (Mark 16:6-7) **The angel specifically mentions Peter above all the other disciples.**

Paul Says: “For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.” (1 Cor15:9) **Paul is not as great as Peter as some protestants say.**

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Feed my **lambs**.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Tend my **sheep**.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my **sheep**.’” (John 21:15-17). **Jesus says this three times to Peter. The number three is used throughout Scripture for important events. (Peter denied Jesus three times, Jesus rose on the third day, Christ rebuilt the temple in three days, Jesus fell three times carrying the cross, Jesus hung on the cross for three hours, Christ dies on the cross at three, Jesus rose on the third day, the Trinity, and etc.).**

The names of Peter, which include Simon and Cephas, are mentioned more times in the New Testament than any other Apostle. **"Of Peter the most is known. Peter is mentioned 195 times, the rest of the other Apostles combined are only 130 times. The one mentioned next in frequency to Peter is John, to whom there are 29 references."** Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, "Life of Christ", page 106.

Apostolic Succession.....

"So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophet, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, (Eph 2:19-20) **Apostolic Succession is a sign of the one true Church.**

"...that you should set right anything that is defective and should appoint presbyters (priests) in every city as I myself directed you to do," (Titus 1:5)

"Take heed to yourselves and to the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as Bishops to rule the Church of God," (Acts 20:28)

"Obey your superiors and be subject to them, for they keep watch as having to render an account of your souls" (Heb 13:17)

"He who hears you, hears Me; and he who rejects you, rejects Me; and he who rejects Me, rejects Him who sent Me." (Luke 10:16)

"For this I was appointed a preacher and apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth." (1 Tim 2:7) **Appointed!**

Apostolic Authority.....

"I thank him who has given me strength for this, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful by **appointing** me to his service," (1Tim1:18) **Paul uses language which shows that Peter passed on his authority.**

Peter's authority continues on as he appoints another to take Judas's place. The Church is Apostolic and not invisible! "In those days Peter stood up among the brethren (the company of persons was in all about a hundred and twenty), and said, "Brethren, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David, concerning Judas who was guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us, and was allotted his share in this ministry.....For it is written in the book of Psalms, `Let his habitation become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it; and `His office let another take.'And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsab'bas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthi'as. and they prayed and said, "Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show which one of these two thou hast chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside, to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was enrolled with the eleven apostles." (Acts 1:16-25) **The Church is Apostolic and continued to be so even after the death of the original apostles.**

"On arriving at Jerusalem they were welcomed by the Church and the Apostles and Presbyters (priests), and they proclaimed all that GOD had done with them." (Acts 15:4)

"Then the Apostles and the Presbyters (priests) with the whole Church decided to select **representatives** and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. (Acts 15:22)

"You, then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to **teach** others also" (2 Tim. 2:1-2). **Paul speaking to Timothy**

"Hence I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the **laying on of my hands;**" (2Tim 1:6) **Paul speaking to Timothy**

"Hence I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the **laying on of my hands;**" (2 Tim 1:6) **Paul speaking to Timothy**

Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. (Philemon 1: 20-21) **Philemon has obedience to Paul even though Paul was not one if the original apostles.**

" but just as we have been **approved** by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please men, but to please God who tests our hearts" (1Thes 2:4)

"I have written something to the church; but Diot'rephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge **my authority.**" (3John 1:9)

"For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchiz'edek.'" (Heb 5:1-6) **Priests are appointed - we are not all appointed priests.**

"And the **twelve** summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may **appoint** to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Proch'orus, and Nica'nor, and Ti'mon, and Par'menas, and Nicola'us, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the **apostles**, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God

increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the **priests** were obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:2-7)

“And when they had **ordained** to them priests in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, in whom they believed” (Acts 14:22)

“And when they were come, and had assembled the church, they related what great things God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles” (Acts 14:26)

Authority through sheep.....

“ This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the **sheep**..... I am the good **shepherd**; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the **sheep**.” (John 10:6-15) **Jesus is the Sheppard of his sheep and later gives authority to his 12 apostles to teach and spread his message.**

“He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the **third** time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "**Feed my sheep**.” (John 21:17) **Jesus gives his authority to Peter to lead the Apostles.**

“These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost **sheep** of the house of Israel.” (Matt 10:5-6)

"Behold, I send you out as **sheep** in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. (Matt 10:16-20) **Jesus is not speaking to a large crowd (see Matt 10:1) of believers, but only to his 12 apostles. He calls them all sheep and later tells Peter to feed or guide my sheep (see John 21:15-17 above).**

“And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” (Matt 28:18-20) **If your Church does not apostolic succession then it is not the true Church.**

Something to think about.....

Most if not all protestant denominations retain some sort of authority over their specific doctrines and practices through church elders, councils, or through the personal opinions of its members. **Are these doctrines biblical and how do these churches know they are being guided by the Holy Spirit as Jesus promised the Apostles?** (See Mark 12:14 above)

Holy Orders in Scripture

“And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” (Eph 4:11-12)

“For every high **priest chosen** from among men is **appointed** to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.” (Heb 5:1)

“ For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of goodness, master of himself, upright, holy, and self-controlled; he must hold firm to the sure word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it.” (Titus 1:7-9)

“The saying is sure: If any one aspires to the office of **bishop**, he desires a noble task.” (1Tim.3)

“I commend to you our **sister Phoebe, a deaconess** of the church at Cen'chre-ae,” (Rom 16:1)

“for those who serve well as **deacons** gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (1 Tim 3:13)

“ and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a **holy priesthood**, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:5)

“ But you are a **chosen race, a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

The Mass as a Sacrifice

“ and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a **holy priesthood**, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:5)

“For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering; for my name is great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.” (Mal. 1:11) **Prefiguration of the sacrifice of Christ.**

“So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (Matt 5:23-24)

“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrew 13:15-16)

“ The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.” (1 Cor 10:16-17)

Real Presence in the Eucharist

The Catholic Church teaches that the Holy Eucharist (under the appearance of bread & wine) is the real body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ - it is not merely symbolic. (*Christ's word's are in RED below*)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.’ The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ So Jesus said to them, “Truly truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed” (John 6:47-55).

“He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever.” This he said in the synagogue, as he taught at Caper'na-um. Many of his disciples, when they heard it, said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at it, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of man ascending where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you that do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who those were that did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. (John 6:56-64) *Even some of the disciples did not believe that we could eat his real flesh & blood.*

"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant of my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes" (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an **unworthy manner** will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks

without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died". (1 Cor. 11:27-30).

(Last supper) "And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, **"This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**(Luke 22:19-20)

" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them **in** the breaking of the bread." (Luke 24:35-36)

(Last supper) "And as they were eating, he took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, **"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."** (Mark 14:22-24)

(Last supper) "Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, **"Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."** (Matthew 26:26-28)

Purgatory

"For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin" (2 Macc. 12:44-45).

"Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison; truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny" (Matt. 5:25-26).

"Each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire" (1 Cor. 3:13-15).

"Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to a judge who is God of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect," (Heb 12:21-23).

"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might

bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly did not obey ." (1 Peter 3:18-20). "For this is why the gospel was **preached even to the dead**, that though judged in the flesh like men, they might live in the spirit like God. (1Pet.4:6) **Why did the dead need preached to if they are in heaven or hell?**

"But nothing unclean shall enter it [heaven] . . ." (Rev. 21:27). **Our souls need cleansed before they can enter heaven if we are not perfect!**

Something to consider: What about Lazarus? He was already dead four days (John 11:17) when Jesus arrived at his tomb. Where was his soul during those four days? It could not be heaven or hell for the same reasons as for Moses and Elias. His soul had to have been in a third place – could this place be purgatory or even limbo?

[Honor Due to the Virgin Mary & Mary Being Sinless](#)

We all inherit original sin from our parents therefore if Mary was born a sinner wouldn't Jesus have to be to? Wouldn't God have wanted the mother of His Son to be perfect in everyway and is it not also possible that God could have created Mary without sin. Mary was" saved" from original sin before she was born (the immaculate conception).

Many Protestants Quote Romans 3 :9-12 & 3:23 "all have sinned" & "none is righteous" so therefore Mary couldn't have been born free from sin. Paul is quoting the Old Testament here (Psalms 14:3 - "They have all gone astray, they are all alike corrupt; there is none that does good, no, not one.") which talks about the evildoers who do wrong and are sinners and that there is also Gods people who are righteous. Paul is obviously talking about evildoers and not all people. Later in Rom 3 Paul talks about the Generation of the righteous. What about children? They have not committed personal sin.

"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (1 Cor. 12:26).

"And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the **mother of my Lord** should come to me?" (Luke 1:41-43).

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth **all generations will call me blessed**; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name'" (Luke 1:46-49).

"for he who is mighty has done great things for me" (Luke 1:49)

"the prayer of a righteous man has great power in it's effect" (James 5:16)

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25)

“And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.” (Luke 1:6) **Speaking of John the Baptists Parents – Zechariah & Elizabeth.**

“For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.” (Rom. 5:19)

“For with God nothing is impossible” (Luke 1:37)

“and he (John the Baptist) will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mothers womb” (Luke 1:15) *How can John the Baptist be a sinner in the womb?*

“Hail, full of Grace! The Lord is with you.” (Luke 1:28) **The Angel Gabriel speaking to Mary.**

Another Passage often quoted by Protestants to prove Mary was a sinner is Luke 2:21-24 (see below). Protestants insist that since Mary offered a sin offering in Jerusalem she must have been a sinner. A closer look into this verse reveals that this view is incorrect. We must understand something here, Mary and Joseph were simply obeying the Laws of the Old Covenant regarding the birth of a male child. Not to obey them would have been a serious sin against God's covenant with Israel. Again, this offering was for Mary, Joseph, and JESUS! If you want to believe that this verse proves that Mary was a sinner then you must also believe that it proves that Jesus was also a sinner.

“And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." (Luke 2:21-24) Restates a Levitical Law!

Here's is the Levitical Law which Mary was obeying in Luke 2:21-24: "And when the days of her purifying are completed, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the door of the tent of meeting a lamb a year old for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering, and he shall offer it before the LORD, and make atonement for her; then she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, either male or female. And if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for her, and she shall be clean. " (Lev 12:6-8)

Something else to consider: Jesus was baptized. Why? He didn't need original sin removed. Does this prove that Jesus was a sinner? Most definitely not! Also, why was Jesus circumcised? He was God, so why did he need circumcision? Does this prove that Jesus was not really God? No!

[Refuting the Protestant Beliefs about Mary from a few Protestant Reformers](#)

The idea that Mary was a sinner and did not remain an ever virgin and has other children are recent ideas that began to gain following from around 1850 when the Catholic Church defined certain teaching's on Mary.

Martin Luther had the belief of Mary's Immaculate Conception, Luther's words:

“It is a sweet and pious belief that the infusion of Mary's soul was effected **without original sin**; so that in the very infusion of her soul she was also purified from original sin and adorned with God's gifts, receiving a pure soul infused by God; thus from the first moment she began to live she was free from all sin" (Sermon: "On the Day of the Conception of the Mother of God," 1527).

"Christ . . . was the only Son of Mary, and the Virgin Mary bore no children besides Him . . . 'brothers' really means 'cousins' here, for Holy Writ and the Jews always call cousins brothers." Martin Luther, (Sermons on John, chapters 1-4, 1537-39).

The Birth of Jesus, Christmas Day; Luke 2:1-14, A sermon by [Martin Luther](#), from his Wartburg Church Postil, 1521-1522

(14) It is well known what is meant by giving birth. Mary's experience was not different from that of other women, so that the birth of Christ was a real natural birth, Mary being his natural mother and he being her natural son. Therefore her body performed its functions of giving birth, which naturally belonged to it, **except that she brought forth without sin, without shame, without pain and without injury, just as she had conceived without sin**. The curse of Eve did not come on her, where God said: "In pain thou shalt bring forth children," Gen. 3: 16; otherwise it was with her in every particular as with every woman who gives birth to a child. (15) Grace does not interfere with nature and her work, but rather improves and promotes it. Likewise Mary, without doubt, also nourished the child with milk from her breast and not with strange milk, or in a manner different from that which nature provided, as we sing: ubere de coelo pleno, from her breast being filled by heaven, without injury or impurity. I mention this that we may be grounded in the faith and know that Jesus was a natural man in every respect just as we, the only difference being in his relation to sin and grace, he being without a sinful nature. In him and in his mother nature was pure in all the members and in all the operations of those members. **No body or member of woman ever performed its natural function without sin, except that of this virgin; here for once God bestowed special honor upon nature and its operations.** It is a great comfort to us that Jesus took upon himself our nature and flesh. **Therefore we are not to take away from him or his mother any thing that is not in conflict with grace, for the text clearly says that she brought him forth, and the angels said, unto you he is born.**

The Methodist Church (AD 1784): John Wesley and Charles Wesley had fairly high views of Mary. John believed in Mary's perpetual virginity. However, most Methodists today are likely unaware of the beliefs of their founder about Mary. Today many Methodist leaders deny the virginal conception of Christ.

John Wesley's words: "The Blessed Virgin Mary, who, as well after as when she brought him forth, continued a pure and unspotted virgin" *Note* John Wesley and Charles Wesley both died not as Methodists, but as members of the Church of England.*

The Protestant Reformer Ulrich Zwingli (1484 - 1531) had this to say:

"It was not enough that the conception of Jesus take place without a male role, for if a woman who had previously known a man had conceived him even through the Holy Spirit, 'who would ever have believed that the child that was born was of the Holy Spirit? For nature knows no birth that is not besmirched with stain.' For the same reason she had to be ever a virgin, she who bore the one in whom there could not be even the least suspicion of blemish. For the birth of Jesus to be absolutely pure of every stain, Mary herself had to be free of any pollution of normal child-bearing..."

The Lutheran Book of Concord, The Person of Christ, Article 24, states: "On account of this personal union and communion of the natures, Mary, the most blessed Virgin, bore not a mere man, but, as the angel [Gabriel] testifies, such a man as is truly the Son of the most high God, who showed His divine majesty even in His mother's womb, inasmuch as **He was born of a virgin, with her virginity inviolate.** Therefore she is truly **the mother of God, and nevertheless remained a virgin.**" *Not many Lutherans today realize that this doctrine is taught in the Concord. Some Lutheran churches do not fully hold to all the teachings of the Book of Concord and like the Bible they pick and choose which teachings they will hold to!*

Jesus's Brothers & Sisters

In Greek, in which the Gospel of Mark was written, the word "brother" is "adelphos" meaning a blood brother, or belonging to the same people, or a countryman, or a fellow believer.

Question: The Bible clearly says that Jesus had brothers and sisters, but the Catholic Church teaches that Mary was a perpetual virgin...how can you reconcile those seemingly different positions?

Answer: Mk 6:3 says, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses, and Judas and Simon, and are not His sisters here with us?" We need to realize a few things here about these "brothers and sisters": #1, there was no word for cousin, or for nephew or niece, or for aunt or uncle in ancient Hebrew or Aramaic - the words that the Jews used in all those instances were "brother" or "sister". An example of this can be seen in Gen 14:14, where Lot, who was Abraham's nephew, is called his brother.

Also, we see from Mt. 27:55-56, that the James and Joses mentioned in Mark 6 as the "brothers" of Jesus, are actually the sons of another Mary. And, one other passage to consider is **Acts 1:14-15**, "(The Apostles) with one accord devoted themselves to prayer,

together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with His brothers...the company of persons was in all about a hundred and twenty." A company of 120 persons composed of the Apostles, Mary, the women, and the "brothers" of Jesus. Let's see there were 11 Apostles at the time. Jesus' mother makes 12. The women, probably the same three women mentioned in Matthew 27, but let's say it was maybe a dozen or two, just for argument's sake. So that puts us up to 30 or 40 or so. So that leaves the number of Jesus' brothers at about 80 or 90! Do you think Mary had 80 or 90 children? She would have been in perpetual labor! No, Scripture does not contradict the teaching of the Catholic Church about the "brothers" of Jesus, when Scripture is properly interpreted in context

“Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.” (1Cor 15:6) **Jesus appeared to 500 brethren or brothers! If you are going to accept the interpretation of “brothers” as meaning a sibling in other places in the bible then you have to accept that same interpretation here. 500 brothers - - Impossible!!!**

“And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother.” (Matt 12:49-50)

“Now these are the descendants of Terah. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran was the father of Lot.” (Gen 11:27)” **However in Gen 14:14 ... Lot, is called Abraham's brother.**

Gen 29:15 ... Laban, Jacob's uncle, calls Jacob his "brother" (KJV).

“He (Joseph) had no relations with her until (heos) she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.” (Mt 1:25) **The Greek and the Semitic use of the word *heos* (until or before) does not imply anything about what happens after the time indicated. In this case, there is no necessary implication that Joseph and Mary had sexual contact or other children after Jesus.**

“Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my **brethren** and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Mag'dalene went and said to the **disciples**, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. (John 20:17-18) **What brothers did Mary go to? The disciples! If brethren here meant blood brothers then Mary disobeyed Jesus's command. Brethren here meant disciples and not actual blood bothers.**

“And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my **brethren** to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” (Matt 28:9-10) **Jesus is referring to his disciples here, but yet he call them his brethren or brothers.**

You have to keep your Mary's straight.....

“Is not this the carpenter (Jesus), the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.” (Mk 6:3). **See Jesus had brothers right? Wrong! James here is the son of Clophas (Alpheus), not Jospheh! See the passages listed below.**

“ And he (Jesus) appointed twelve, to be with him, and to be sent out to preach and have authority to cast out demons: Simon whom he surnamed Peter; James the son of Zeb'edee and John the brother of James, whom he surnamed Bo-aner'ges, that is, sons of thunder; Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alpheus (Clophas), and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.” (Mark 4:14-19) **If either James here is the blood brother of Jesus and son of Mary then James should be the son of Jospheh in this passage.**

“So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clophas (Alpheus), and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" (John 19:25)

“ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. John “ (19:26-27) **Jesus gives care of Mary to John, not one of his "brothers." This would have gone against Jewish tradition and greatly offended his “brother” James. It was Jewish custom for the oldest son to care for his mother.**

“among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zeb'edee.” (Matt 27:56)

There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome, (Mk 15:40)

“Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.” (Mk15:47) **The second Mary is not the Virgin Mary, but Mary the wife of Clophas (Alpheus) so this does not prove that Mary had other children.**

One last thing to consider: if there were blood brothers and sisters of Jesus that would mean that somewhere on earth today there should be a descendant of Mary & Joseph and hence a “Jesus” bloodline. If this were true wouldn't this bloodline surely would have reveled at some time during history? This could hardly be kept a secret for if it were true.

Zebedee & Salome begat - James and John (Mt 4:21, Mk 1:19, Mk 3:17, Mt 27:56, Mk 15:40)

Cleophas (Alpheus) & Mary (the other Mary) begat - James (the less), Joseph (Joses), and Jude Mt 10:2-3, Jn 19:25, Acts 1:13, Mt 27:56,61, 28:1, Jn 19:25

THE HOLY SPIRIT (Lk 1:35-38) – begat JESUS THE CHRIST through the Virgin Mary (Lk 1:30-38)

Prayers of the Rosary

The prayer of the rosary is in reality a variety of prayers, most being totally scriptural.

The Apostles Creed c. 700 AD

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell, and on the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen

Our Father Mt 6:9-13

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one.

Christian doxology (cf. Rev 4:8)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Rosary Prayer - Mary is a work of God and when we say the Rosary we honor a work of God.

“Hail, full of Grace! The Lord is with you.” Lk 1:28

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” Lk 1:42 - *“the mother of my Lord”*

Holy Mary, Mother of God. Lk 1:43; (see also the Council of Ephesus, 431)

Pray for us sinners; *Prayer of petition; confession of sinfulness*

now and at the hour of our death. Amen *Petitioning Mary dates to 3rd century*

The sign of the cross; invoking the Holy Trinity: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen*

Why pray the Rosary?

Don't think of your religion as only “me and Jesus” we are part of the Holy Family with God the Father as the head. Mary and the Saints are part of that family and they teach us how to honor Christ. What father wants you to isolate yourself with only him and his son and ignore the rest of his family? Spiritually, Mary is our Mother and that's why we venerate her and ask her to pray for us. Sort of like how a son/daughter will go to his/her mother and ask for something where “Dad” had the ultimate say in the matter” Jesus honored his Father & Mother perfectly and if we are to imitate Jesus we should honor those who he honored. 4th commandment “honor thy Father and Mother”.

“Praying” to the Saints

Catholics do not worship saints, angles, or Mary . When we “pray” to them, we are simply asking them to intercede and pray to God for us. No Catholic prayer to the saints, angles, or Mary ever treats them as divine or equates them with being equal to God.

1. Catholics agree that Jesus is the “sole mediator between God and man”.

Jesus is the only one who is true God and true man; only by Jesus' blood are we saved; but, as members of Jesus' Body, we can share in His role as mediator as He allows us to.

2. Moses, Abraham, Job are examples of mediation and intercession

between God and man; praying for one another here on earth is an example of mediating and interceding between God and man

3. Why waste your time praying to the Saints when you can go straight to Jesus?

Why waste your time asking me to pray for prayer you when you can go straight to Jesus?

4. Catholics are accused of this when we pray to the Saints & Mary:

“There shall not be found among you any one who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, any one who practices divination, a soothsayer, or an augur, or a sorcerer, or a charmer, or a medium, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD; and because of these abominable practices the LORD your God is driving them out before you.” **(Deut 18:10-12) This passage refers to the occult and not to the Saints who are alive in heaven. Catholics are not trying to raise the “dead” or have the Saints appear before us.**

“And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God said to him, "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? He is not God of the dead, but of the living . . .” (Mark 12:26-27) . **The Saints are not dead they are alive in heaven – more alive than we are on Earth.**

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Eli'jah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Eli'jah." (Mt 17:1-4), **Eli'jah and Moses “appear” to Jesus and 3 disciples. Was Jesus breaking his Fathers commandment by going against Deut 18:10-12 by calling up the dead? No!**

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely . . ." (Heb. 12:1).

"And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints" (Rev. 5:8).

"And another angel came and stood before the altar, having a golden censer: and there was given to him much incense, that he should offer of the prayers of all saints, upon the golden altar which is before the throne of God." (Rev 8:3)

"And the smoke of the incense of the prayers of the saints ascended up before God from the hand of the angel. (Rev 8:4)

"the prayer of a righteous man has great power in it's effect" (James 5:16) **If no one on earth is righteous that James must be referring to the Saints in heaven**

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of God" (Matt. 18:10) **if the angels know wouldn't also the Saints.**

"On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed King of kings and Lord of lords." (Rev. 19:16)

"Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality". (Rom. 12:13)

"that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints," (Rom. 15:31)

"For this is why the gospel was preached **even to the dead**, that though judged in the flesh like men, they might live in the spirit like God. (1Pet.4:6) **If the dead can hear the prayers why can't the saints who are in heaven?**

"For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you." (Philemon 1:7)

["Call No Man Father" Matt 23:9](#)

Calling a priest Father does not conflict with Matt. 23:9. We are not putting the priest above God, but simply using the word "Father" to mean teacher or spiritual father. We call our male parent Father – is this putting our earthly Father above God? No it's not.

There are 124 instances in the Bible where the word "father" is used to describe someone other than God.

Matt 23:9 is simply a re-statement of the first commandment **"You shall have no other gods besides me"**.

St. Paul calls Abraham father in (Rom 4:12): “and likewise the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but also follow the example of the faith which our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.”

St Paul says in (1 Cor 4:15): “For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” **Paul is referring to himself as a spiritual father not God. The same as a priest is today.**

“And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopota'mia, before he lived in Haran,” (Acts 7:2)

Preaching Christ Crucified

Question: I had a friend ask me why Catholics have Crucifixes in our churches...don't we believe Jesus has risen? Why do we keep Him on the cross?

Answer: First of all, you would want to check out 1st Corinthians, chapter 1, verse 23. Paul says, "...but we preach Christ crucified..." Why does Paul preach Christ crucified? Doesn't he know Jesus has been raised from the dead? Of course he does! **But, he knows that it is through the power of the crucified Christ on the cross that the bonds of sin and death are broken.** As Paul says in verse 24, Christ crucified is the "power of God".

Paul preaches Christ crucified because an empty cross has no power. The cross that bears the beaten, battered, and bloodied body of Jesus Christ, however, that cross is the "power of God". This is why, we "keep Jesus on the cross," because we, too, preach Christ crucified. The Crucifix reminds us not only of God's power, but also His love for us - giving His only begotten Son up for suffering and death.

“ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles” (1 Cor 1:23)

"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (1 Cor 2:2,) **Again, didn't Paul know that Jesus had risen from the dead? Of course, he did.**

Also, here in this life we do not share so much in the glory of the Resurrection, as we do in the suffering of Jesus on the cross; after all, we must take up our cross daily if we are to follow Jesus as it says in Luke.

“And he said to all, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Lk 9:23)

and..... we must die with Christ in order to live with Him as Romans 6:8 tells us. Where did Christ die? On the cross. The Crucifix serves to remind us of these things.

Types of Sins Mortal & Venial

If anyone sees his brother sinning, if the sin is not deadly (*venial*), he should pray to God and he will give him life. This is only for those whose sin is not deadly. There is such a thing as deadly sin (*mortal*), about which I do not say that you should pray. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not deadly. (1 Jn 5:16-17)

List of Sins

(Jesus said) "But what comes out of a person, that is what defiles. From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile." (Mk 7:20-23)

Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal 5:19-21)

"... putting away falsehood ... Be angry but do not sin ... The thief must no longer steal ... No foul language should come out of your mouths ... All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice." (Eph 4:25-31)

"Immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be mentioned among you, as is fitting among holy ones, no obscenity or silly or suggestive talk, which is out of place, but instead, thanksgiving. Be sure of this, that no immoral or impure or greedy person, that is, an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty arguments, for because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the disobedient. So do not be associated with them." (Eph 5:3-7)

"And do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery" (Eph 5:18)

"But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Mt 5:28)

"But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery." (Mt 5:32)

"But I say to you, do not swear at all" (Mt 5:34)

"But as for cowards, the unfaithful, the depraved, murderers, the unchaste, sorcerers, idol-worshipers, and deceivers of every sort, their lot is in the burning pool of fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (Rev 21: 8)

“Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor boy prostitutes nor practicing homosexuals nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.” (1 Cor 6:9-10)

Confession - Reconciliation

Catholics believe, as do some other Non-Catholic Christians, that Jesus gave to the Apostles and their successors the power to forgive sins, reconciling sinners to God for sins committed after Baptism.

The priest says in the confessional, "I absolve you of your sins." The priest is acting in **Persona Christi**, *in the person of Christ*. Since the priest is acting in the person of Christ, then it is Christ to whom you confess your sins. It is Christ alone who remits them. Jesus Christ uses the priest as His voice and His hands. The prophets of the Old Testament spoke in GOD's name. They spoke in the person of God. The priests of the New Covenant speak in the person of Christ. God never changes.

“For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.” (Heb 5:1)

“When a man is guilty in any of these, he shall confess the sin he has committed, and he shall bring his guilt offering to the LORD for the sin which he has committed, a female from the flock, a lamb or a goat, for a sin offering; and the **priest** shall make atonement for him for his sin. ” (Lev 5:5-6)

"And the priest shall make an atonement for all the congregation of the children of Israel, and it shall be forgiven them..." (Num 15:25)

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." (Mk 2:5)

"But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth"-- he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home. He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone." (Mk 2:10-12)

"For which is easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven you, or to say arise and walk? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power to forgive sins" - then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your pallet and go to your house". And he arose, and went away to his house. But when the crowds saw it, they were struck with fear, and glorified God who had given such power to men" (Mt 9:5-8) **Jesus gave the same authority to Peter.**

I will give you the **keys** to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Mt 16:19) **What happened to the keys after Peter's death? Where they passed on? Lost? Why didn't the other 11 get a key?**

Jesus later gave the same authority to all the Apostles.

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Mt 18:18)

“Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the **ministry of reconciliation**; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So **we are ambassadors for Christ**, God making his **appeal through us**. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”

(2 Cor 5:17-21)

The Apostle John, an eyewitness, recorded more directly the words of Jesus giving the power to forgive sins to all the Apostles after the testimony of the Resurrection.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.**" (Jn 20:19-23)

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” (James 5:16)

If we acknowledge (confess) our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing.” (1 John 1:9)

“Peter (said) to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

“If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing.” (1 John 1:9)

"I am writing to you, children, because your sins have been forgiven for his name's sake.” (1 John 2:12)

“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” (Matt 18:17)

Indulgences

By definition, an indulgence is the remission in whole or in part of the temporal punishment due to personal sin, provided that the sin has already been forgiven and the conditions of the indulgence have been met. The power invested in the Church to grant indulgences is found in several scriptures.

As can be seen from the nature of personal sin, as man turns from God and towards created things, man incurs both guilt and punishment. Through the blood of Jesus, all guilt of sin--turning from God--is remitted through confession of sin. Punishment, limited temporal punishment due to sin--preferring created things to God--still remains.

“The Lord answered (Moses): "I pardon them as you have asked. Yet, by my life and the Lord's glory that fills the whole earth, of all the men who have seen my glory and the signs I worked in Egypt and in the desert, and who nevertheless have put me to the test ten times already and have failed to heed my voice, not one shall see the land which I promised on oath to their fathers. None of these who have spurned me shall see it." (Num 14:20-23)

“Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan answered David: The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin: you shall not die. But since you have utterly spurned the Lord by this deed, the child born to you must surely die.” (2 Sam 12:13-14)

“For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying. If we discerned ourselves, we would not be under judgment; but since we are judged by (the) Lord, we are being disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.” (1 Cor 11:29-32)

The three classic actions leading to indulgences are prayer, good deeds and almsgiving.

“By kindness and piety guilt is expiated, and by the fear of the Lord man avoids evil.” (Prov 16:6)

“Therefore, O king, take my advice; atone for your sins by good deeds, and for your misdeeds by kindness to the poor; then your prosperity will be long.” (Daniel 4:24)

“But Zacchae'us stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.” (Luke 19:8-9)

“Your prayers and almsgiving have ascended as a memorial offering before God.” (Acts 10:4)

“Above all hold unfailing your love for one another, **since love covers a multitude of sins.**” (1 Peter 4:8)

Infant Baptism

Some Protestants wonder why we baptize infants when they are not yet aware of their faith. Baptism takes away original sin which must be removed if we are to enter heaven according to scripture.

“Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5)

“Peter (said) to them, "Repent and be baptized, **every one of you**, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and **to your children** and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:38-39)

“**And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family.**” (Acts 16:32-33)

“but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 19:14)

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit” (Matt 28:19)

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:3-4)

“When Jesus returned to Capernaum ... They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw **their faith**, he said to the paralytic, "Child, **your sins are forgiven.**” (Mark 2:1-5)

“He who believes and **is baptized** will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

“For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” (1 Cor 15:21-22)

“But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the effect of that one man's sin.

For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.” (Rom 5:15-16)

“To the woman he said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” (Gen 3:16)

“True, I was born guilty, a sinner, even as my mother conceived me.” (Psalms 51:5)

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you;” (Jeremiah 1:5) **Also shows that life begins at conception.**

“And you he made alive, when you were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind, and so we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” (Eph 2:1-6) **This passage shows the effect that original sin has on mankind. Baptism removes this sin.**

Two last points to consider:

Nowhere does the Bible say that infant’s shouldn’t be baptized or that we should only baptize adults who are aware of their faith.

Baptism by Submersion only? “So Anani'as departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized, and took food and was strengthened. For several days he was with the disciples at Damascus. “(Acts 9:17-19)

Genesis Creationism/Evolution

Beasts before Man:

(Gen 1:25-26) “And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

Man before Beasts:

(Gen 2:19-20) “Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper fit for him”

Do Gen 1 & Gen 2 conflict? No, they both convey the truth, that God created all things visible and invisible. They are not to be taken as a scientific fact, that was not why they were written down.

Concerning human evolution, the Catholic Church has a more definite teaching. It allows for the possibility that man’s *body* developed from previous biological forms, under God’s guidance, but it insists on the *special creation* of his *soul*.

HUMANI GENERIS

(Concerning Some False Opinions Threatening to Undermine the Foundations of Catholic Doctrine)

Pope Pius XII - *Encyclical Promulgated on 12 August 1950*

36. For these reasons the Teaching Authority of the Church does not forbid that, in conformity with the present state of human sciences and sacred theology, research and discussions, on the part of men experienced in both fields, take place with regard to the doctrine of evolution, in as far as it inquires into the origin of the human body as coming from pre-existent and living matter—**for the Catholic faith obliges us to hold that souls are immediately created by God.** However this must be done in such a way that the reasons for both opinions, that is, those favorable and those unfavorable to evolution, be weighed and judged with the necessary seriousness, moderation and measure, and provided that all are prepared to submit to the judgment of the Church, to whom Christ has given the mission of interpreting authentically the Sacred Scriptures and of defending the dogmas of faithful[11] Some however rashly transgress this liberty of discussion, when they act as if the origin of the human body from pre-existing and living matter were already completely certain and proved by the facts which have been discovered up to now and by reasoning on those facts, and as if there were nothing in the sources of divine revelation which demands the greatest moderation and caution in this question.

NOTE: The Catholic Church does not teach that evolution is a fact, but it accepts that it is possible that God could have created man this way. The Bible is not a science book and only tells the story that God created man. The teaching of evolution without God as the creator is not approved by the Church. The Theory of evolution is NOT a fact – it’s only a theory!

(2 Peter 3:8) “But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” **Is one day strictly 24hrs? Genesis isn't about how many days God created the Universe – it's about the fact that God created everything we see and that God made man to rule over all living things God on Earth.**

(Gen 1:13-19) “And there was evening and there was morning, a third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.”

How were the first three days measured if God created the sun and the moon on the fourth day? How long did these first three days take? 72 hours? 1 week? 4.5 Billion years? Genesis is not a scientific account of how long it took God to create the universe as some Fundamentalist Protestants believe. Again, Genesis was written to convey the truth that God created the universe and man. How he did it and how long it took we will never exactly know.

(Job 38:4-6) “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements -- surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone.”

[Drinking Wine is OK](#)

All 3 accounts of the Last Supper in Matthew, Mark, and Luke have Jesus and the Apostles drinking wine (the "fruit of the vine").

Jesus's first miracle was to turn some 120-180 gallons of water into wine (John 2:3-10), for folks to drink. And, it was better wine than any of the wine that had already been served at that particular wedding.

“Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine...” (1 Tim 3:8,) **Obviously, it is okay for them to drink some wine, they just cannot be addicted to "much" wine.**

“And do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery” (Eph 5:18) **Does not say don't drink wine only do not get drunk on it.**

“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.” (1 Tim 4:4) The materials from which alcohol is made are all natural materials made by God.

“No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.” (1 Tim 5:23) **Timothy is ordered to drink wine.**

“Hear and understand, not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth...” (Matthew 15:10-11)

“For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man has come eating and drinking; and you say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunkard...'” (Luke 7:33-34) **Now, what do you think Jesus was drinking that they would have called Him a drunkard? Grape juice? I don't think so. Now, this is not to say that He was a drunkard...obviously He wasn't. But, the only way someone could even begin to make that case would be if He was known to drink wine.**

[Statues, Images, and Relics in the Bible](#)

Catholic's are sometimes accused of worshipping statues, images, and relics. Catholic's do not do this although it may appear this way to Protestants when they see a photo of a Catholic Church, veneration service, and etc. Having or making images does not go against scripture and does not equate to worshipping idols. Statues in Catholic Churches are simply art that reminds us of Jesus, The Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, and other saints and angles. Catholics do not worship these statues in any way. Nativity scenes at Christmas. Protestants have them. Do they worship idols? No. This is no different than the statues in a Catholic Church. We all have photo's of our family members, but we obviously do not worship the photo or the family member. Catholic statues and art simply remind us of our heavenly family members which include Jesus, Mary, the Saints, and the Angles.

“And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end; of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends. The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be. And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark; and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you of all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.” (Ex 25:18-22)

”And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and every one who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent, and set it on a pole; and if a serpent bit any man, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.” (Num 21:8-9)

“In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olivewood, each ten cubits high. Five cubits was the length of one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the length of the other wing of the cherub; it was ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other. The other cherub also measured ten cubits; both cherubim had the same measure and the same form. The height of one cherub was ten cubits, and so was that of the other cherub. He put the cherubim in the innermost part of the house; and the wings of the cherubim were spread out so that a wing of one touched the one wall, and a wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; their other wings touched each other in the middle of the house. And he overlaid the cherubim with gold. He carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, in the inner and outer rooms.” (1 Kings 6:23-29)

“On them he carved cherubim and palm trees and open flowers; and he overlaid them with gold evenly applied upon the carved work.” (1 Kings 6:35)

“and on the panels that were set in the frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim. Upon the frames, both above and below the lions and oxen, there were wreaths of beveled work.” (1 Kings 7:29) **Solomon's temple: statues and images.**

”And God did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.” (Acts 19:11-12) **Paul's handkerchiefs and apron cure sicknesss.**

“So Eli'sha died, and they buried him. Now bands of Moabites used to invade the land in the spring of the year. And as a man was being buried, lo, a marauding band was seen and the man was cast into the grave of Eli'sha; and as soon as the man touched the bones of Eli'sha, he revived, and stood on his feet.” (2 Kg 13:20-21) **Elisha's bones.**

“so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.” (Acts 5:15-16) **Peter's shadow heals.**

[Repetitious prayer](#)

“He left them and withdrew a third time, saying the same thing again.” (Matt 26:44) **Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane**

“And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all round and within, and day and night they never cease to sing, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (Rev 4:8)

Kneeling

Protestants often wonder why we kneel during Mass. It is biblical, especially since Jesus is truly physically present in our Church in the Eucharist.

"And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all. (Act 20:36)

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father," (Eph 3:14)

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth," (Phil 2:9-10)

"But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up." (Acts 9:40)

"Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the court; and he stood upon it. Then he knelt upon his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven;" (2 Chronicles 6:13)

"O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! (Psalm 95:6)

Homosexuality ("Love the sinner hate the sin")

Catholics and other Christians are often accused of hating homosexuals because we do not accept homosexual marriage, sex, and adoption. The Catholic Church teaches that we should love everyone regardless of their sins. Homosexual persons are welcome to be members of the Catholic Church and to receive Holy Communion and the other sacraments as long as they are in a state of grace. Homosexual acts (sex, marriage, and etc.) are condemned by God as the Bible and the Church teaches. The Catholic Church does not and will never accept homosexual relationships as being from God.

"So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man (Adam), and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed. (Gen 1:20-25) – **God did not create another man for Adam he created Eve, a woman.**

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. Their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, **men committing shameless acts with men** and receiving in their own persons the due penalty for their error. (Rom. 1:26-27)

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, **nor sexual perverts**, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6:9-10)

“understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, immoral persons, **sodomites**, kidnapers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,” (1Tim. 1:9-10)

“If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death, their blood is upon them” (Lev. 18:22, 20:13).

“Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, **orgies, and the like**. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Gal 5:19-21)

Judging Right From Wrong – Are you Judging others when you do this?

Catholics and non-catholics are often accused of “Judging” others when we take a stand on certain issues (i.e. abortion, gay marriage, closed communion, etc.) We are told that we are going against what the Bible (examples: Matt 7:1 or Luke 6:37) teaches about judging others. While it is absolutely true that we are not to judge or cast condemnation on others for their sins (see John 5:22 below) we should and are required to judge truth from error. It’s important to remember that judging truth from error is not the same thing as condemning someone for their sins as many people try to imply. When someone makes this argument they are misunderstanding basic Christian theology and are ignoring what the bible says regarding the judgment of truth from error.

We should not judge or condemn others for their sins:

“The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son” (John 5:22)

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.” (Matt 7:1-2)

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (Matt 18:15-17)
This verse makes no sense if we are forbidden to judge wrong (sin) from right (truth)!

"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;" (Like 6:37)

However, we should always judge right from wrong & truth from lies. We should and can do this without judging others:

"Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, to whom he forgave more." And he said to him, You have **judged rightly.**" (Luke 7:43) **Jesus speaking to Peter.**

"Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment." (John 7:24)

"Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" (John 7:51) **Shall we do away with our justice system because it judges right from wrong?**

" But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge "(Acts 4:19)

"And when she was baptized, with her household, she besought us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us." (Acts 16:15)

" I speak as to sensible men; judge for yourselves what I say." (1Cor 10:15)

" and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:32) **We are required to judge truth from error. If not how can we be set free?**

" who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1Tim2:4)
How can we be saved unless we are able to judge right from wrong ?

"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an **unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord.** Let a man examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks **judgment upon himself.** That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died". (1 Cor. 11:27-30). **This verse backs up the Catholic teachings that we should not receive the Eucharist if we are in a state of mortal sin or if we do not believe everything which the Catholic Church teaches.**

[The Trinity & Christ's Divinity \(Jehovah Witness's & others\)](#)

Some so called "Christian" religious sects do not believe in the Holy Trinity as Catholics and most protestant churches believe. Most of these sects believe Jesus to be just a prophet or an angel and not God.

Jehovah Witness's beliefs on Jesus: Michael The Arc Angel became a man called Jesus (not God) through Mary. Jesus was crucified and his human body died and no longer existed. His spirit then emerged from the tomb to become a God, but not the God. So by this doctrine Christ was three successive and independent beings!! When dealing with Jehovah Witnesses keep in mind that they use a transliteration called the New World Translation (NWT) of the Bible, which is different from a Catholic or Protestant Bible.

Also..... On page 1640 of the NWT, it says "we RENDERED the Tetragrammaton (YHWH or Lord) **6828** times to read 'Jehovah'". So the NWT now reads 'Jehovah' instead of 'Lord' as in other Bibles. **Rendered = Changed!** Keep in mind that there are scripture verses where they did not render Lord as Jehovah because if they did the verse would contradict their beliefs that Jesus is not God.

"That Jesus Christ is 'Lord.'" (Phil 2:11) The Jehovah Witness's did not render Lord as Jehovah here. Why? Because then Christ would be Jehovah (God) and it would say something they do not want it to say!!

"And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:41-43). Again, the Jehovah Witness's did not render Lord as Jehovah here.

"For to what angel did God ever say, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"?" (Heb 1:5) Jesus is not an angel!

"But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, disputed about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a reviling judgment upon him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." (Jude 1:9) Michael the Archangel is not the Lord (IE Christ) according to this passage! Also.... in Rev 12:5, there is Jesus Christ, and in Rev 12:7, there is Michael again. Hmmm, they look like separate persons to me, according to the NWT.

"Let no one disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind," (Col 2:18) If Jesus is an Angel then we are not to worship him, but according to 1Peter 4:11 we are told to adore or worship Jesus.

"And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshipped him. (Matt 28:9) Jesus is worshipped here so he must be God.

"For to us a **child is born**, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'" (Is. 9:6).

"Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven'" (Matt. 16:16-17).

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). **Why does the NWT translate this passage as "the word was a god"? If the NWT didn't change the words around here then this passage would say that the Word (Jesus Christ) is God and not a god.**

"Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I am**" (John 8:58).

"I and the Father are **one**" (John 10:30)

"but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the **Father is in me and I am in the Father.**" (John 10:38)

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:44) **Only God can raise the dead so Jesus must be God.**

"For in him [Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" (Col. 2:9).

"In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through **whom also he created the world**. He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power . . ." (Heb. 1:1-3).

"But of the Son he says, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever, the righteous scepter is the scepter of thy kingdom. . . . And, "Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands." (Heb. 1:8, 10)

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . .'" (Gen. 1:26).

"Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt) 28:19 **The Trinity.**

"But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the **Holy Spirit** and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to **God.**'" (Acts 5:3-4) **The Holy Spirit is God according to this verse.**

"The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ** and the **love of God** and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all" (2 Cor. 13:14).

Torture Stake?

Jehovah's witness's claim Jesus was not crucified on a cross, but on a "torture stick". In the early Church it was the T-shaped cross that was designated by *stauros* in Greek (Koine Greek - not Classical Greek as JW's use) and by *crux* in Latin. The evidence for this is abundant and can be found in several areas of study--history, archaeology, art, liturgical tradition, paleography, and the New Testament itself.

"So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." (John 20:25)

"And he said to all, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Lk 9:23)

Old Covenant Replaced by New Covenant

"Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On the principle of works? No, but on the principle of faith." (Rom 3:27-28) *Paul speaking of the works of the old covenant laws.*

"For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace." (Rom. 6:14)

"But now we are discharged from the law, dead to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit." (Rom 7:6)

"For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified." (Rom 10:4)

"Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law." (Rom 13:8-10)

"And you, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, having canceled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him. 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." (Col. 1:13-16)

"In speaking of a new covenant he treats the first as obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away." (Heb. 8:13)

“then he added, "Lo, I have come to do thy will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.” (Heb. 10:9)

“and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks more graciously than the blood of Abel.” (Heb 12:24)

“For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Gal. 5:14)

“So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian;” (Gal 3:24-25)

“I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification were through the law, then Christ died to no purpose.” (Gal 2:21)

“But their minds were hardened; for to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away.” (2Cor. 3:14)

“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, `Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jer. 31:31-34) *Old Testament Prophecy of the new covenant.*

“Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven (1 Peter3:21-22)

Sunday as the Sabbath

“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**.” (Col. 1:16)

“On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the morrow; and he prolonged his speech until midnight.” (Acts 20:7)

“You observe days, and months, and seasons, and years! I am afraid I have labored over you in vain.” (Gal 4:10-11)

The Rapture

"When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. " Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matt 25:31-46) **Most rapture believers will ignore verses 35-46 since judgment here seems to be based on what we did (works) which contradicts Sola Fide.**

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only." (Matt. 24:36) **The hour is unknown! Pretty clear here.**

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Matt. 25:13)

" Watch therefore -- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning -- lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Watch." (Mark 13:35-37)

"the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the unfaithful." (Luke 12:46)

"So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. (Acts 1:6-7)

"For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." (1 Thess. 5:2)

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. " (2 Peter 3:10)

"Remember then what you received and heard; keep that, and repent. If you will not awake, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you." (Rev. 3:3)

"Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it until it receives the early and the

late rain You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”
(James 5:7-8)

“He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord
Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20)

*The above was compiled by Chad N. Arkenberg. All Bible verses are taken from the Revised Standard
Version – Catholic Edition.*

10 Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods

The Theological Virtues The Theological Virtues are given at baptism:

1. Faith
2. Hope
3. Love/Charity

7 Sacraments

1. Baptism
2. Eucharist
3. Reconciliation
4. Confirmation
5. Marriage
6. Holy Orders
7. Anointing of the Sick

The Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feeding the hungry
2. Giving drink to the thirsty
3. Clothing the naked
4. Sheltering the homeless
5. Visiting the sick
6. Visiting the imprisoned
7. Burying the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

The seven practices of Catholic charity toward our neighbor's soul:

1. Admonishing the sinner
2. Instructing the ignorant
3. Counseling the doubtful
4. Comforting the sorrowful
5. Bearing wrongs patiently
6. Forgiving injuries

The Seven Deadly Sins With Conquering Virtues

The 7 deadly sins with the corresponding conquering virtues. The conquering virtues are the virtuous actions that act as remedies against the deadly sins.

1. Pride (Humility / Modesty)
2. Envy (Kindness / Charity)
3. Lust (Chastity / Purity)
4. Wrath (Patience / Meekness)
5. Gluttony (Abstinence / Moderation)
6. Greed/Avarice (Generosity / Liberality)
7. Sloth/Acedia (Diligence / Zeal)

The Cardinal (Moral) Virtues **The Cardinal Virtues with brief definitions:**

1. Prudence (knowing the appropriate what, when, and how)
2. Justice (treating others fairly)
3. Temperance (acting moderately)
4. Fortitude (doing what's right in all situations)

Precepts of the Church **The duties of Catholics:**

1. To attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. To receive Holy Communion at least once a year, between the first Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday.
3. To receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance, confession) at least once a year.
4. To observe the fast days and abstinence days established by the Church.
5. To observe the marriage laws of the Church.
6. To contribute to the support of the Church

The Three Eminent Good Works

1. Prayer
2. Fasting
3. Almsgiving

The Evangelical Counsels

1. Chastity
2. Poverty
3. Obedience

Nine Ways of Being Accessory to Another's Sin

1. By counsel ("You should get an abortion")
2. By command ("You must get an abortion")
3. By consent ("You are getting an abortion? Good idea!")
4. By provocation ("He will get angry if I keep bugging him")
5. By praise or flattery ("Way to cheat on your wife buddy!")
6. By concealment ("I'll cover-up your crime")
7. By partaking ("We can rob this business together")
8. By silence ("I know you stole it, but I won't tell")
9. By defense of the sinful action ("His car was unlocked; it deserved to be stolen")

Sins Against the Holy Spirit

1. Presumption on God's mercy
2. Despair
3. Resisting and/or attacking the known Truth
4. Envy at another's spiritual good
5. Obstinacy in sin
6. Final impenitence

Sins Crying to Heaven for Vengeance

1. Willful murder
2. Sodomy
3. Oppression of the Poor
4. Defrauding laborers of their wages

The Eight Beatitudes (Matthew Chapter 5 - Christ's sermon upon the mount)

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.
3. Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted.
4. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill.
5. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.