

Lesson # 9 – Chapter 10: Christ, Source of All Grace

1. Review Test

2. Answering a question from the last class: Charles Darwin – Was he a Catholic Priest?

- Was he a Catholic Priest? **The Answer is NO!!**
- Charles Darwin attended a Church of England school with the aim of becoming a clergyman. He was a Unitarian not an Anglican. A Unitarian is someone who believes in the moral authority but not the divinity of Jesus. This theology is opposed to the Christian Trinitarian belief.
- On the voyage of the Beagle he remained orthodox in his faith but towards the end of the voyage began to doubt that species were fixed. By this time he was critical of the Bible as history, and wondered why all religions should not be equally valid. Though he thought of religion as a tribal survival strategy, Darwin still believed that God was the ultimate lawgiver, and later recollected that at the time he was convinced of the existence of God as a First Cause and deserved to be called a theist. This view subsequently fluctuated and he continued to explore conscientious doubts, without forming fixed opinions on certain religious matters.
- In 1879 he responded that he had never been an atheist in the sense of denying the existence of a god, and that generally "**an Agnostic would be the more correct description of my state of mind.**" He went as far as saying "For myself, I do not believe that there ever has been any revelation. As for a future life, every man must judge for himself between conflicting vague probabilities".
- Charles Darwin's ideas and writings eventually started leading people to think that God does not exist and that everything we see was created by random process with no creator.
- The Catholic Church addressed these errors in 1950 in the Papal Encyclical "Humani Generis".

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 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. 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.

- Because of this Encyclical many protestant denominations claim that the Catholic Church promotes the theory of evolution as a fact. → Not True!
- This confusion often comes through the misinterpretation (purposeful or not) of Church documents.
- The Catholic Church has never made an official binding statement which says that evolution is a fact and must be believed by all Catholics.
- The Catholic Church neither teaches that evolution is true or false, but simply that it is a scientific theory which can be believed in provided we do not ignore the teaching of the Catholic Church.
- The Catholic Church does allow for the possibility that man's body developed from previous biological forms, under Gods guidance, but it insists on the special creation of his soul.
- Catholics are free to believe in evolution (under God's creative hand) and they are also free to believe in the creation story found within the book of Genesis. Catholics are not free to believe that man was created by some random process and that God had no role in it.

- We should also remember that the Catholic Church does not make infallible statements on matters of science only on matters of faith and morals. Exactly how man came about through God's creative hand has not been revealed to man by God. It's a mystery!
- It's also important to remember that the Biblical authors had very little knowledge about science and that it was not their intent to write a book answering questions concerning science.

Chapter 10 – Christ, Source of All Grace

- Tonight we'll learn that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection he won Grace for man.
- The Son of God became man so that we might receive the Gift of Grace which our first parents (Adam & Eve) were meant to receive before the fall (original sin).
- Sanctifying Grace is God's greatest gift to us.
- Sanctifying Grace → Is a Gift from God that gives us a share in His life and draws us closer into union with Him.
- Those who die in the Grace of God go to Heaven where there is a Love, Joy, and Happiness with Mary, the Saints and the Holy Trinity forever!
- Grace is very important to our salvation. So important that we would even die for it!

1. Jesus' Mission of Grace

- Whenever God gives someone a mission He always gives them everything they need for the mission.
- The Incarnation (*the word made flesh*) is what allowed Jesus' mission to be completed.
 - Jesus was both God & Man
 - He was Perfect, Sinless, and full of Grace.
- Jesus had divine power which made it possible for Him to redeem us.

- Jesus could free us from sin and the Devil → Redemption
- Redeem → free us from our slavery to sin and the devil.
 - The Gospels are full of true stories that reveal Christ's power over sin and the devil.
 - **Mark 1:23-26** "And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.
 - Jesus had the power to forgive sin! Only God can do this!
 - **Mark 2:2-10** "And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "**My son, your sins are forgiven.**" Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "**Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?**" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"
- Jesus worked miracles and taught with authority which amazed His followers.
 - Only God can do miracles!

- **Mark 1:27-28** “And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching! With authority he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. “

2. Jesus Gives Grace to All Men

- **Jesus fulfilled His mission through His: Life, Death, and Resurrection.** This is the only way we enter into a new life!
- We receive God’s Grace through the Sacraments which Jesus entrusted to his Church.
- Through the 7 Sacraments Jesus continues to defeat Satan and Sin by continuing to offer His grace to us.
 - **The Seven Sacraments: Signs of God’s Grace Working in our soul transforming us into a new creation!**
 - 1) **Baptism**
 - 2) **Eucharist**
 - 3) **Reconciliation**
 - 4) **Confirmation**
 - 5) **Marriage**
 - 6) **Holy**
 - 7) **Anointing of the Sick**

----- **[Class Video – 3MC – DVD #2 / Redemption / Chapter 33](#)** -----

- Because all Grace comes from Jesus and because Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, she is often called the **Mediatrice** or channel of grace.

Next Week: Jesus Finds His Church!

Class Lesson Questions:

1. **What is Sanctifying Grace?** → Is a Gift from God that gives us a share in His life and draws us closer into union with Him.
2. **What does the term “Incarnation” mean?** → The word made flesh.
3. **Jesus fulfilled his Salvation plan through his:** Life, Death, and Resurrection
4. **Since Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and since all Grace comes from Jesus Mary is sometimes called?**
The Mediatrix
5. **To be free from the Devil and Sin is called:** Redemption

Apologetics: Catholics are often asked if they have been saved. John 3:16 is often quoted: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” See, they say, as long as you “believe” you are saved..... Not so fast!

- As Catholics we believe that John 3:16 is 100% true, but we do not agree with the protestant interpretation of it. It’s not that simple!
- Review: as Catholics we believe that we are saved through **God’s grace alone** (*Latin: Sola Gratia*) and that **we must participate with God’s Grace through Faith and Works!**
- Protestants often claim that they have been “saved” since they believe in Christ Jesus as John 3:16 states. Many even claim that nothing can affect their salvation not even sin. Belief comes from Luther’s invented theology of Faith Alone (*Latin: Sola Fide*).
- So.....what does it truly mean to “believe”?
- As Catholic’s we believe **everything** that Jesus has revealed to the world through His One True Church not just part of it! We can’t pick and choose truth. → Relativism

- Since we are saved through Grace alone we must obtain these graces through Jesus' Church. This was His plan! The Seven Sacraments! They are found in scripture.
- Most Protestants claim there are two sacraments. Others don't even use the term sacrament.
 - The two most accepted protestant "sacraments" are Baptism and the Lords Supper.

Some Scripture Verses to back up the Catholic Teaching of Salvation:

"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)

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)

"You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons **believe** -- and shudder." (James 2:19) **Are the Demons saved?**

"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).

"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)