

Chapter 13 – Doctrine of Grace

Review of Chapters 12 & 13:

1. We learned that Christ founded a Church to carry out His saving mission.
2. Jesus chose 12 men who would be the foundation members of His Church.
3. We learned how Jesus chose one man (Peter) to be the visible leader of His Church. → The Pope
4. Membership in Jesus' Church includes those here on earth (Church Militant), those in purgatory (Suffering), and those in heaven (Triumphant).
5. As a result of the reformation there are now thousands of different churches all claiming to be the Church which Jesus founded. They all teach different and conflicting doctrines.
6. If we want to find the true Church Jesus founded we should look for the four marks of the His Church:
1.One 2. Holy 3.Catholic 4.Apolostolic
7. We learned that Jesus left His Church with two special gifts to ensure that His saving mission continue:
 - 1) Infallibility – Holy Spirit protects the Church from teaching error.
 - 2) Indefectibility – the Church will always be with us.

Chapter 13 – Doctrine of Grace

- God created each one of us to know, love, and serve Him on earth.
- Because of Original Sin we fall short in loving and knowing God completely.
- Through Gods Love for us He helps us reach Heaven with his Grace.
- Grace from God is supernatural because it comes to us through Jesus and it is far above our natural human powers to obtain. Not even the angles can provide us with this grace!
- Grace is a free gift.
- God gives us Grace because He loves us and desires us to be in heaven with Him.

-----Class Video – 3MC – DVD #2 / Part 6 / Title 34: What is Grace?-----

1. Gods Greatest Gift: Sanctifying Grace

- Because of original sin all of us are conceived and born without the gift of grace in our hearts.
- The only two exceptions to this are Jesus and Mary
 - Immaculate Conception → Mary was protected by God in some special way from the consequences of original sin.
 - Mary still needed a savior. God from the beginning of time protected Mary.
 - *“The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.”* - Pope Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus* (1854)
 - Protestants do not believe that Mary was conceived without sin. They often quote Rom 3:23 *“as it is written, all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God”* (Rom 3:23) and they say *“see no one was free from sin so Mary could not have been conceived without sin.”*
 - As it is written → from the Old Testament
 - A closer look at the passage shows that Paul is actually quoting the Old Testament (Psalms 14:3 *“they have all gone astray, they are all alike corrupt; there is none that does good, no, not one.”*).
 - Paul is speaking about a specific people in this verse and is not referring to everyone. Later in Paul talks about the generation of the righteous. Does he contradict himself? No! Rom 5:19 → *“so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.”*
 - *“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). **If Mary's soul magnifies the Lord, then how could she's have the stain of sin on her soul? Do Protestants call Mary Blessed? No! → Then they are not following scripture.**
- Sanctifying Grace makes us Holy and pleasing to God and able to live in Heaven. → God's greatest gift.

- The only thing that can take away Sanctifying Grace is Mortal Sin.
 - Mortal Sin separates us from the Grace of God. When we sin mortally we have injured our relationship with God. After we have been baptized the sacrament of confession is the only way to remove the stain of mortal sin from our souls.
 - What is Mortal Sin? It's a very serious sin against God with separates us from His grace.
 - Three conditions are necessary for mortal sin to exist:
 - **Grave Matter:** The act itself is intrinsically evil and immoral.
 - **Full Knowledge:** The person must know that what they're doing or planning to do is evil and immoral.
 - **Deliberate Consent:** The person must freely choose to commit the act or plan to do it. Someone forced against her will doesn't commit a mortal sin.
 - **An example of Mortal Sin:** Purposely and without good reason missing Holy Mass on Sunday or Holy Days of Obligation.
- Sanctifying Grace gives us three supernatural virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity.
- We receive Sanctifying Grace through the Seven Sacraments → Remember Sanctifying Grace starts with "S" and so do the words "Seven Sacraments"

2. The Gift of Actual Grace

- Another type of Grace we receive is Actual Grace.
- Actual grace comes through the enlightenments and inspirations that move our mind and wills.
- God sometimes nudges us to get our attention so that we might enter more deeply into relationship with him. In such moments we experience actual grace.

- Examples of Actual Grace are:
 - The desire to read the Bible
 - The desire to Pray
 - Helping someone who is sick or in need.
- When we say yes and participate with actual grace we become closer to God and are pleasing Him.
- God gives us sufficient graces to be saved. A true Christian should view his whole life in the light of grace.
- All God's gifts granted for man's salvation are graces.
- A good family, a good education, these are all graces. But even sickness and hardships are God's graces and may be the steps by which we ascend to heaven.
- God grants graces to protect us against temptation.
- Just as we can choose to sin through free will we can also choose to reject the grace of God through free will.
- God does not force us to accept His grace.

--Class Video – 3MC – DVD #2 / Part 6 / Title 35: How do we receive Grace?--

Review Questions:

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| 1) Because of _____ we are born without grace. | Original Sin |
| 2) After Adam and Eve committed original sin who were the only two people born without it? | Jesus/Mary |
| 3) What makes us Holy and able to enter heaven? | Sanctifying Grace |
| 4) What separates us from God's grace? | Mortal Sin |
| 5) Sanctifying Grace gives us three supernatural virtues. They are? | Faith, Hope, and Charity |
| 6) How do we receive sanctifying grace? | 7 Sacraments |
| 7) Give an example of actual grace? | Reading the Bible, Prayer, Good Works |
| 8) Give an example of a mortal sin? | Missing Mass on purpose , Murder, Rape, Stealing, Perjury, Adultery, etc. |