

ROMAN CATHOLICISM - MARY

An Analysis of Roman Catholic Doctrine and the Word of God

Source: Catechism of the Catholic Church, published by Libreria Editrice Vaticana (Italian for: Vatican Publishing House which was established in 1926 by Pope Pius XI. It is responsible for publishing official documents of the Roman Catholic Church, including Papal bulls and encyclicals. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is the official source for all Roman Catholic doctrine and contains the official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Source: The Bible

1 - MARY'S IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Roman Catholicism teaches that, from the moment of her conception, Mary was preserved from all sin and never committed any sin during her entire life.

Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: "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, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." Pages 123-124, paragraph 491

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long." Page 124, paragraph 493

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Mary is 'the most excellent fruit of redemption': from the first instant of her conception, she was totally preserved from the stain of original sin and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life."

Summary

So Catholicism teaches that there's another person, besides Jesus, who was without sin from the time of conception - and who lived a perfectly pure and sinless life - and that person was Mary

The Bible:

Ecclesiastes 7:20

"For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin."

Romans 3:23

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:10

"As it is written, 'There is none righteous, no, not one.'"

Romans 5:12

"...just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—"

Galatians 3:22

"But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe."

1 John 1:8

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

2 Corinthians 5:21

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

1 Peter 2:22

"Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth"

1 John 3:5

"And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin."

Conclusion:

Contrary to Roman Catholic doctrine that exalts Mary as being conceived without sin and sinless throughout her entire life, the Bible teaches that this distinction is only true of Jesus Christ.

2 - MARY'S PERPETUAL VIRGINITY

Roman Catholicism believes that Mary remained a virgin throughout her entire married life to Joseph and never engaged in normal, conjugal relations with him.

Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The deepening of faith in the virginal motherhood led the Church to confess Mary's real and perpetual virginity even in the act of giving birth to the Son of God made man. In fact, Christ's birth "did not diminish his mother's virginal integrity but sanctified it." and so the liturgy of the Church celebrates Mary as Aeiparthenos, the "Ever-virgin". Page 126, paragraph 499

Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Mary remained a virgin in conceiving her Son, a virgin in giving birth to him, a virgin in carrying him, a virgin in nursing him at her breast, always a virgin." Page 128, paragraph 510

The Bible:

Matthew 1:24-25

"Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son."

Galatians 1:19

"Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother."

Matthew 13:54-56

"When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? ⁵⁵ Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶ And His sisters, are they not all with us?"

Mark 6:2-3

"And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! ³ Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?"

1 Corinthians 9:5

"Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?"

Matthew 12:46-47

While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. ⁴⁷ Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You."

Conclusion: Therefore Mary was not a perpetual virgin as Romanism teaches - but engaged in normal, conjugal relations with Joseph after Jesus was born and gave birth to at least six other children.

3 - MARY'S ASSUMPTION

Catechism of the Catholic Church: "...the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things..." Page 252, paragraph 966

Notice a few things here:

First, "when the course of her earthly life was finished" - Mary is said to have been "taken up body and soul into heavenly glory"

Now that's not normal, is it? - because "when the course of your earthly life is finished" (which is when you die) - at that moment your "body" will NOT be "taken up into heavenly glory"

Quite to the contrary, your body will be left behind on earth - and it will be buried - however your soul (or spirit) will be separated from your body (or disembodied) - and it will be in heaven - awaiting the Day when it will be re-united with your body - at the Judgment Seat of Christ

But what Catholics must believe, as of November 1, 1950, when Pope Pius XII declared it as infallible "ex-cathedra" dogma - is that Mary's body (as well as her soul), at the end of her life, was "taken up into heavenly glory"

This is known as, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin - and it is entirely without any Scriptural support whatsoever!

There's not a shred of evidence in the Bible or even from early church history to support this doctrine, but it must nonetheless be believed as dogma by all Roman Catholic faithful everywhere

The Bible:

Isaiah 33:5

"The Lord is exalted, for He dwells on high."

Psalms 57:5

"Be exalted, O God, above the heavens."

Psalms 148:13

"Let them praise the name of the Lord, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven."

1 Chronicles 29:11

"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, And You are exalted as head over all."

4 - MARY'S SAVING OFFICE

Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation." Page 252, paragraph 969

Note three incredible Roman Catholic claims made here concerning Mary:

1 - After her assumption to heaven, the exalted Mary maintains her "saving office" there: "Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office..."

2 - In heaven, Mary conducts a ministry of "manifold intercession"

3 - Mary's intercessory ministry results in "the gifts of eternal salvation" being brought and delivered by her to the faithful

For instance, there's not a single verse in Scripture that says Mary holds a "saving office" or conducts an "intercessory ministry" that "brings us the gifts of eternal salvation" - only Christ does - and yet, the Catholic Catechism says this concerning Mary's ability to save by her prayers and intercession:

Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Because she gives us Jesus, her son, Mary is Mother of God and our mother; we can entrust all our cares and petitions to her: she prays for us as she prayed for herself: By asking Mary to pray for us, we acknowledge ourselves to be poor sinners and we address ourselves to the "Mother of Mercy," the All-Holy One. We give ourselves over to her now, in the Today of our lives. And our trust broadens further, already at the present moment, to surrender "the hour of our death" wholly to her care. May she be there as she was at her son's death on the cross. May she welcome us as our mother at the hour of our passing to lead us to her son, Jesus, in paradise." Pages 643-644, paragraph 2677

Catechism of the Catholic Church: "O Mother of God...You conceived the living God and, by your prayers, will deliver our souls from death." Page 252, paragraph 966

The Bible:

Romans 8:34

"It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."

Romans 8:27

Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix."

Page 252, paragraph 969

Mary is "invoked" or appealed to by Roman Catholics as their "Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix." However none of these four titles are given to Mary in the Bible - and none of the abilities, attributes or functions associated with them rightfully belong to Mary, but only to Jesus Christ

For instance, the Roman Catholic belief that Mary is an "Advocate" arose from something that Pope John Paul II declared in 1997 which must be accepted by Catholics as absolute truth. He said, "...at the moment of the Annunciation, the Virgin Mary became the Advocate of Eve. In fact, with her "yes" she defended our first mother and freed her from the consequences of her disobedience, becoming the cause of salvation for her and the whole human race."

Source: L'Osservatore Romano (weekly newspaper of the Holy See) Weekly Edition in English, October 1, 1997, page 11.

The Bible:

1 John 2:1 "...if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

Psalm 54:4

"Behold, God is my helper."

Hebrews 13:6

"So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear."

John 14: 26

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

1 Timothy 2:5

"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,"

Hebrews 9:15

"And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."

Hebrews 8:6

"But now He (Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises."

Hebrews 12:24

"...to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant..."

Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic (essential) to Christian worship. The Church rightly honors the Blessed Virgin with special devotion. From the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honored with the title of 'Mother of God,' to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs...The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the rosary...express this devotion to the Virgin Mary." Page 253, paragraph 971

Summary:

The net effect of believing so many false teachings concerning Mary is that she receives more attention, devotion and worship - than anyone else.

More prayers are offered to Mary and more worship is given to her - than to Christ and the Father combined.

For instance, there are many hundreds of Marian shrines around the world built to honor and worship Mary.

Shrines mark an apparition (or alleged appearance) of Mary - or a location where she is thought to have performed a miracle - and these Marian shrines are the destinations of pilgrimages made by millions of people every year

One of the most famous is Our Lady of Lourdes in France - a small town of 15,000 people that receives 6 million visitors annually - in France, only Paris has more hotel rooms than Lourdes - and the population of Paris is 2.5 million!

Other famous Marian shrines that draw millions of annual pilgrims are:

- Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico
- Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal
- Our Lady of the Pillar in Spain
- Our Lady of La Salette in France
- Our Lady of Apar-ecida in Brazil

All of these shrines draw millions of Roman Catholics annually - for the purpose of devotion to Mary - which Rome teaches is "intrinsic (essential) to Christian worship."

However there are no Roman Catholic shrines built to worship Jesus Christ - except a very small one located in Beau-vior, Quebec in Canada.