



Catechetical Series:

What Catholics Believe & Why

COMING TO JESUS

for Catholics & Non-Catholics
concludes with a
Commitment Prayer to Christ

Behold The Truth

Discovering the What & Why of the Catholic Faith
beholdthetruth.com



The Truth of Our Existence

- ❖ You are not here as a result of random chance.
- ❖ You are here for a specific purpose, and when you pursue that purpose you will become who you were truly meant to be.
- ❖ Nothing can replace or take away the fulfillment that comes with that.



The Truth of Our Existence

- ❖ You were made in the image and likeness of God who loves you completely—more than you will ever fully know.
- ❖ Our existence and the meaning of our lives, therefore, can only find fulfillment in Him.

“You have made us for Yourself,
O Lord, and our heart is restless
until it rests in You.”

Saint Augustine, *Confessions*

You were created by God to live a life
of holiness and purpose.

He made you to love Him and to love others in this world;
and to be happy with Him forever in the next.

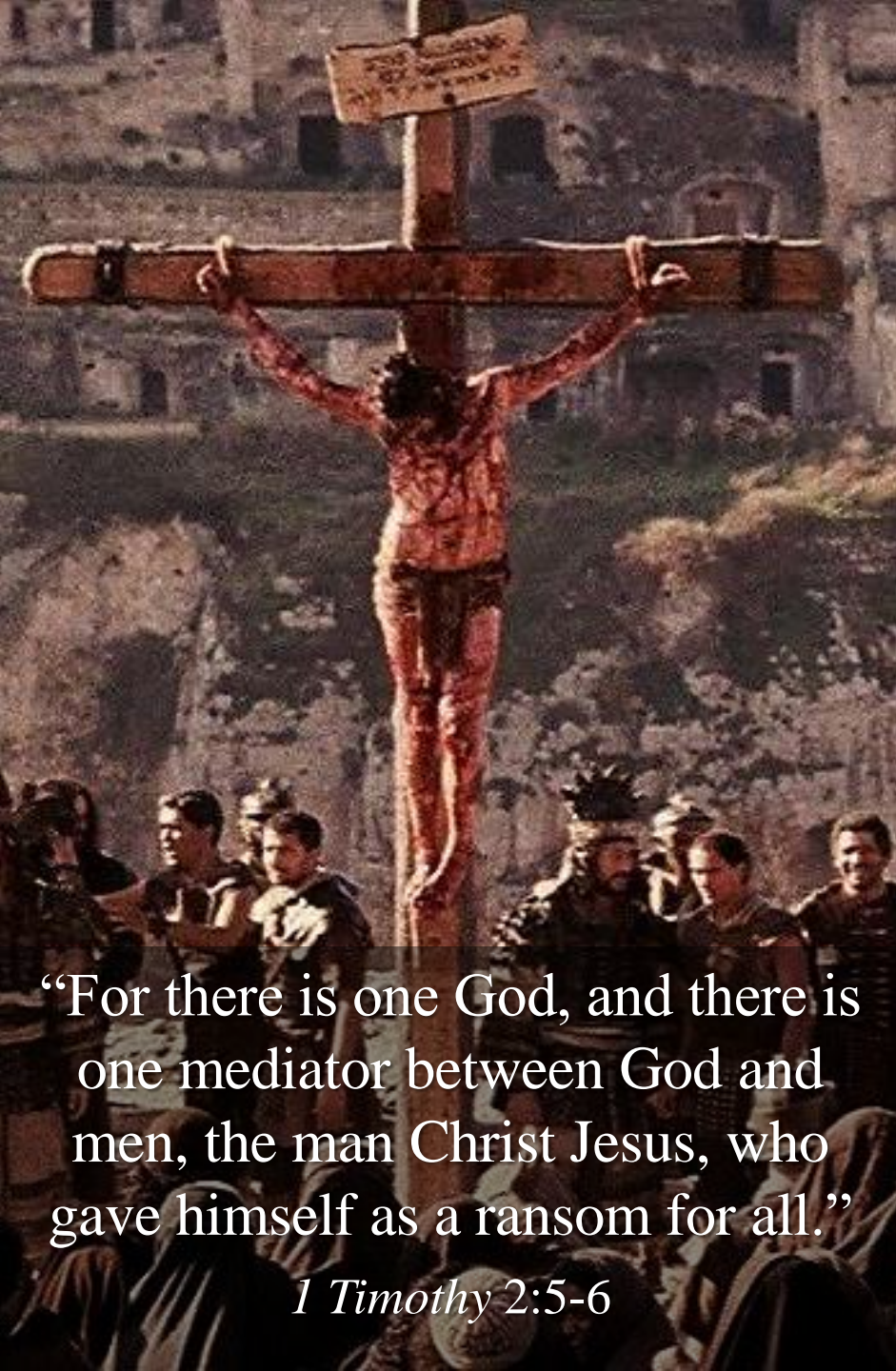
He made you to be a saint.

This is the truth of your existence.



The Fall of Mankind

- ❖ We must seek God because the human race fell away from Him through the sin of Adam and Eve in the beginning.
- ❖ Because of their act of disobedience against God's law, which the Church calls *original sin*, their descendants are now conceived and born in a state of separation from Him.
- ❖ The bonds of love and trust He established with us in the beginning have been severed; thus we have been deprived of the gifts of grace He originally intended for us to have.



The Redemption

- ❖ God sent Jesus His Son into the world to redeem us through an act of perfect obedience: His death on the Cross in atonement for our sins.
- ❖ Through this self-sacrificial act on our behalf, Jesus reconciled the human race to God.
- ❖ Only He could reconcile God and mankind because He alone is both God and man.

“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.”

1 Timothy 2:5-6



How Do We Find God?

- ❖ Among the founders of the various world religions, Jesus is wholly unique.
- ❖ For while all others claimed to be *teachers of the truth*, Jesus alone claimed to *be the Truth*, saying, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” John 14:6



How Do We Find God?

- ❖ And Jesus went on to say: “No one comes to the Father but by me.” John 14:6
- ❖ If we want to fully know and have a relationship with Our Creator, therefore, we must come to Him through Jesus Christ, His Only-begotten Son.
- ❖ How, then, do we come to Jesus?
- ❖ In coming to Him, it is important we do so not on our terms, but on His, listening to and taking seriously all that He had to say.



How Do We Find Jesus?

- ❖ We come to Jesus through His Church, the community of His followers, for Jesus and the Church are one. Cf. Rom. 12:5
- ❖ Jesus said to the Church, “He who hears you, hears me.” Luke 10:16
- ❖ He made Baptism and belief in the gospel necessary for salvation cf. Mark 16:16; and He entrusted these necessary things to His Church, saying, “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. 28:19-20



How Are We Saved?

- ❖ While all humanity has been *redeemed* by Jesus on the Cross, not all people will necessarily be *saved*.
- ❖ For Jesus said, “Many are called, but few are chosen.”
Matt. 22:14
- ❖ We can think of the Cross as God’s invitation to salvation.
- ❖ To be saved, however, we must accept that invitation.
- ❖ How exactly do we accept that invitation? *What must we do to be saved?*



How Are We Saved?

- ❖ Some will say we do not need to do anything more than believe in Jesus to be saved.
- ❖ They will point to Saint Paul's saying: "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Rom. 10:9
- ❖ It is important, though, not to pull verses of the Bible out of context, but to interpret them within the sphere of all that Scripture has to say.



How Are We Saved?

- ❖ While faith in Christ is absolutely necessary for salvation, the Bible makes it clear that faith alone is not enough.
- ❖ Saint James, writes, for instance, “Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder.” Jas. 2:18-19
- ❖ The point here is obvious: the demons, too, believe in God, yet they are clearly not saved, for while they believe in God they do not do the works of God.
- ❖ So their belief in Him is worthless.



How Are We Saved?

- ❖ In actuality, good works are merely our faith being lived out in our daily lives.
- ❖ This is why James goes on to say, “You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.”
Jas. 2:24
- ❖ And Saint Paul says of Judgment Day, “He will render to every man according to his works.” Rom. 2:6
- ❖ And Our Lord Himself reveals that on Judgment Day He will separate the saved from the damned based upon what they did or failed to do for the poor, “the least of my brethren.” Matt. 25:30



How Are We Saved?

- ❖ Protestants will often say simply we must accept Jesus Christ as Our Lord and Savior to be saved.
- ❖ This is certainly true, but it is more involved than this.
- ❖ For when a man asks Jesus Himself in the Gospels, “What good deed must I do, to have eternal life?”
Matt. 19:16, Jesus does not rebuke him or state that salvation is by “faith alone.”



How Are We Saved?

- ❖ Rather, Jesus says, “If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” Matt. 19:17
- ❖ It is not enough for us, then, merely to believe in Jesus.
- ❖ To be saved, our belief in Him must become active in our works, in the way we live our daily lives.



How Are We Saved?

- ❖ Similarly, when the crowd at Pentecost asks the Apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do [to be saved]?”, Saint Peter does not respond, “You do not need to do anything more than believe,” but rather says, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.” Acts 2:37-38



The Necessity of Grace

- ❖ That faith, repentance, Baptism, and good works are necessary for salvation does not mean we can get to heaven through works *alone*, “earning” our way there.



The Necessity of Grace

- ❖ God's grace is necessary in order for our faith, repentance, Baptism, and works to have merit in His eyes.
- ❖ That is to say, these things are powered by the grace which Jesus earned for us on the Cross.
- ❖ His grace is absolutely necessary for us to be able to believe in Him and do what He has asked us to do.



The Necessity of Grace

- ❖ The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches: “Our justification comes from the grace of God. Grace is *favor, the free and undeserved help* that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life.” Par. 1996



Grace Truly Amazing

- ❖ God's grace is *efficacious*, having the power to actually transform the human soul from sinfulness to holiness.
- ❖ It does not merely cover our sins, but eradicates them entirely, effecting a real change in us and making us a new creation.

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.”

Isaiah 1:18



Grace Truly Amazing

- ❖ Having transformed us, grace enables us to act as “God’s fellow workers.”
1 Cor. 3:9
- ❖ We are not God’s servants or slaves, but His beloved sons and daughters.
- ❖ It brings Our Father glory to have His children participate with Him in His work.



Grace and the Sacraments

- ❖ Jesus instituted the Sacraments as the ordinary way to impart the graces He earned through His death on the Cross to the souls of believers.
- ❖ Of the sacrament of Baptism, He said: “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



Grace and the Sacraments

- ❖ Of the Holy Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament, He declared: “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 abides in me, and I in him.” John 6:53, 56
- ❖ And He gave the Apostles the authority to forgive sins in His Name in the sacrament of Reconciliation, saying: “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” John 20:23



Grace and the Sacraments

- ❖ Jesus would go on to institute the remaining seven Sacraments of His Church: Confirmation Acts 1:8, Anointing of the Sick Mark 6:13, Holy Matrimony Matt. 19:4-6, and Holy Orders Luke 22:19.
- ❖ These sacred rites are essential in order for God's people to live in a covenantal relationship with Him through Christ.



The Necessity of Jesus

❖ Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

❖ The Sacraments are the ordinary ways He gave us to “abide” in Him.



Commitment Prayer to Christ

for Catholics & Non-Catholics

O Lord Jesus Christ,
You have said, “I came
that they might have
life and have it more
abundantly.” John 10:10

I want to belong to
You from now on.
I want to know what it
means to live life
abundantly.



Commitment Prayer to Christ

for Catholics & Non-Catholics

Teach me what it means
to be a Christian.

Teach me how to
follow You.



Commitment Prayer to Christ

for Catholics & Non-Catholics

You have asked us to
live a holy life.

If I am in a state of grace,
please keep me in it;
if I am not,
please bring me to it.



Commitment Prayer to Christ

for Catholics & Non-Catholics

Grant me perfect sorrow for
my sins, sorrow for having
offended You, My God,
Who alone are truly good.



Commitment Prayer to Christ

for Catholics & Non-Catholics

I surrender myself
completely to You now,
holding nothing back.

I give You my whole self,
all that am, all that
I love, all that I desire.

I give You my
freedom itself.



Commitment Prayer to Christ

for Catholics & Non-Catholics

In exchange, O Lord,
let me at last live as
You desire me to live.

May the will of our
heavenly Father, and not
mine, be done.



Commitment Prayer to Christ

for Catholics & Non-Catholics

Let me live the remainder of
my days in union with You,
My Jesus.

And at the end of those
days, let me join You in the
kingdom of heaven.



Commitment Prayer to Christ

for Catholics & Non-Catholics

O My Jesus,
I commit myself to You.

I am totally Yours.

My Jesus,
I trust in You.

Amen.



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