

TOPIC: Justification – Being Right in God’s

Sight: By faith alone **or** faith + works

- **CCC 1813** “The theological virtues [faith, hope, and love] are the foundation of Christian moral activity... They are infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children and of meriting eternal life.”
- **Romans 4:5** “...to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness...”
- **Romans 6:23** “...the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- **Titus 3:5** “[God] saved us, **not** on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, **but** according to His mercy...”

Conclusion: Merit focuses on self; faith focuses on Christ and His finished work!

TOPIC: Purgatory

- **CCC 1030:** “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified... after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.”
- **1 John 1:7** “...the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
- **Luke 23:43** “... [Jesus said:] today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”
- **2 Corinthians 5:8** “...absent from the body... at home with the Lord.”

Conclusion: We are pure through Jesus!

TOPIC: Indulgences and Treasury of Merits

- **CCC 1471:** “An indulgence is a remission [reduction] before God of the temporal punishment due to sins..., which the faithful Christian... gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which... dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.”
“An indulgence... removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.” The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead.
- **1 Peter 1:18-19** “...you were not redeemed with perishable things... but with... the blood of Christ.”
- **Hebrews 10:14** “...by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”

Conclusion: We are perfected through Jesus!

TOPIC: Intercession of Departed Saints

- **CCC 956:** “...those who dwell in heaven... do not cease to intercede with the Father for us...”
- **Isaiah 63:16** “...You are our Father, though Abraham does not know us And Israel does not recognize us.”
- **Romans 8:34** “Christ Jesus... is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.”
- **1 Timothy 2:5** “...there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...”

Conclusion: Christ is the only mediator!

TOPIC: Mary’s Immaculate Conception

- **CCC 491:** “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception... preserved immune from all stain of original sin.”
- **Luke 1:47** “... [Mary said:] my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.”
- **Romans 3:10** “There is **none** righteous, not even one...”
- **Hebrews 4:15** “...we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”

Conclusion: Mary was saved through Jesus!

Conclusion

John 20:31 “...these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Dear Friend: May this brochure inspire you to ♦read the Bible, ♦believe it is true, ♦be sorry for your sins, ♦rejoice in Jesus’ finished work, ♦trust in Christ alone for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life, and ♦live with assurance, peace, and joy!

Holy Scripture Quotes: [New American Standard, 1995](#)

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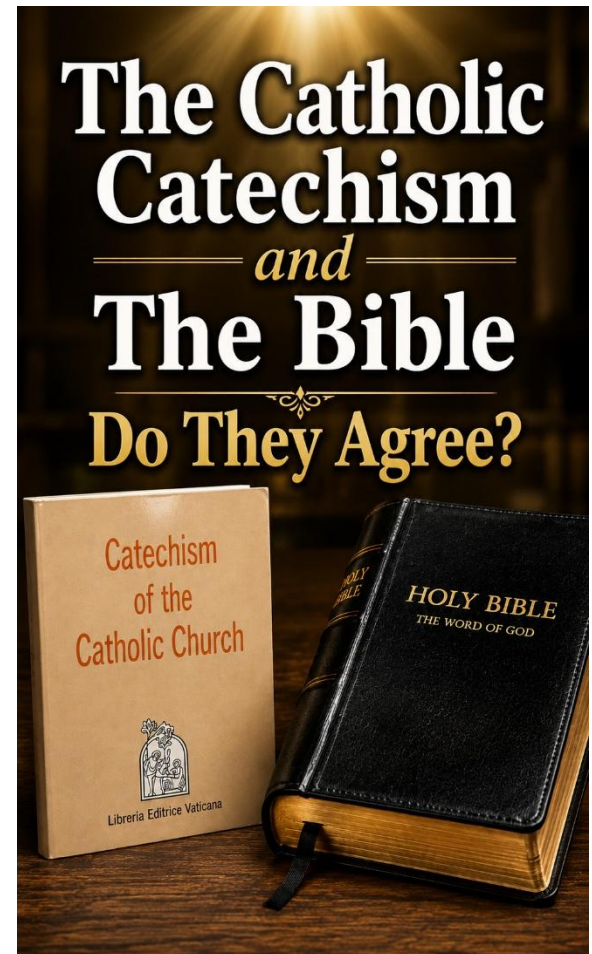
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Introduction

Dear Friend: My purpose is to compare the teachings of the Catholic Catechism with the teachings of the Bible. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit, *through God's Word*, would ♦show us God’s truth, ♦work repentance, and ♦give us the assurance of eternal life.

Note: This brochure is about the two books, **not** the beliefs of any individual person.

Please keep reading to understand these two important books: where they agree and where they disagree.

Identifying the Two Books

- **The Catholic Catechism** (CCC) – This brochure refers to the English version published in **1994**. It is the first universal catechism for the RCC (Roman Catholic Church) since the Roman Catechism of **1566**, written after the Council of Trent.
- **The Bible** – The 66 books of the OT and NT are the written word of God. How is that possible? The Holy Spirit moved men to write the words of God (**2Pe 1:21**). Therefore, the Scriptures are **true, trustworthy, and sufficient** for teaching the way of salvation (**Isa. 40:8**; **Pro. 30:5**; **2Ti. 3:16-17**).

Many Areas of Agreement

These doctrines – **in general** – form the broad foundation of historic Christianity and *should be appreciated before* examining the important differences discussed below.

1. There is one true God – The Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. Angels are real; Satan and demons are evil angels who opposed God.
3. Heaven and hell are real places.
4. All people are sinners and need salvation.
5. Jesus Christ is true God and true man: ♦conceived by the H.S., ♦born of the Virgin Mary, ♦lived a sinless life, ♦died for all people, ♦rose bodily from the dead, ♦ascended into heaven, ♦reigns as Lord and King, ♦will return in glory, ♦will raise all people, and ♦will judge

the living and the dead.

6. God calls all people to repentance, faith in Jesus Christ, and holy living.
7. Human life is sacred from conception until natural death.
8. Baptism was instituted by Christ and is a means of God's grace.
9. Parents have the responsibility to teach the Bible to their children.
10. Christians are to love God above all and their neighbors as themselves.
11. The Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ and includes His real presence.
12. The Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds summarize the Christian faith.

Important Aspects of Truth

Why Truth Matters:

- How does a scammer try to deceive us? By including logic and much truth (**but not all truth**) in his pitch to us.
- How does the Bible warn us? **Proverbs 14:12** “There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

The Bible Regarding the Truth:

- The Bible is true: **Psalm 119:160** “The sum of Your word is truth...”
- Jesus prayed to His Father: **John 17:17** “Your word is truth.”
- The source of freedom from sin and death: **John 8:31-32** “If you continue in My word... you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”
- Paul's hearers gladly listened, then compared his teaching with the Bible:

Acts 17:11 “... [the Bereans] were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”

Key Areas of Disagreement

This section includes several important topics. The format: ♦topic, ♦CCC paragraph number and quote, and ♦Bible quotes.

TOPIC: Source of Truth

- **CCC 82:** “The Church... does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone.... Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.”
- **2 Timothy 3:15-17** “...the sacred writings... are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. // The Bible is all-sufficient.
- **Jesus to Pharisees and scribes:** **Mark 7:7-8** “...in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men. Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.” // Tradition can be good but does not equal Scriptural authority.

Conclusion: Let's always emphasize Scripture over Tradition!

TOPIC: OT Holy Scriptures – 39 or 46 Books

- **CCC Page 868:** “The Bible contains both the 46 books of the OT and the 27 books of the NT.” // Most Protestant

Bibles have 39 OT books and the same 27 NT books; the difference is the 7 Apocryphal books. So, **39** or **46**?

- God inspired the OT in Hebrew (39). When it was translated into Greek (285–100 BC), it eventually came to include 7 additional books (Septuagint).
- Jesus identified the OT Scriptures: **Luke 11:51** “...from the blood of Abel [**Gen.**] to the blood of Zechariah [**2Ch.**] ...” – the **first** and **last** books of the Hebrew OT. Greek OT: **Genesis** through **Daniel**.
- Important facts: **Jesus** never quoted from the Apocrypha and **St. Jerome**, who translated the Septuagint into the *Latin Vulgate*, did not accept the Apocryphal books to be Scripture.

Conclusion: The 7 books are important! *The 39 books are the inspired word of God!*

TOPIC: Papal Supremacy

- **CCC 882:** “...the [Pope]... has full, supreme, immediate, and universal power over the whole Church.”
- **Jesus and Peter:** **Matthew 16:16, 18** “[Peter said:] “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.... [Jesus said:] you are Peter [*Petros* – **stone**], and upon this rock [*Petra* – **bedrock**] I will build My church...” // The Church is built on **Peter's confession**, not Peter.
- **Eph. 1:22** “[God] ...gave [Christ] as head over all things to the church...”
- **Colossians 1:18** “[Christ] is also head of the body, the church...”

Conclusion: The Pope is over the RCC! Christ is over the **whole** Christian Church!