

What Protestants and Catholics Can Learn from Each Other

“What About Mary and the Saints?”

Luke 1-2 – June 1, 2025

WHAT PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS CAN LEARN FROM EACH OTHER		
<i>Civil Conversations About Beliefs and Traditions</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
May 18	What Protestants Can Learn from Catholics	1 Thess 5:16-21
May 25	What Catholics Can Learn from Protestants	Mark 7:1-13
June 1	What About Mother Mary and the Saints?	Luke 1-2
June 8	What About Communion, Mass, and the Eucharist?	1 Corinthians 10-11
June 15	What About Purgatory, the Rosary, and Confession?	Hebrews 10:1-17
June 22	What About Celibacy and Sexual Abuse? [PG-13 sermon]	1 Corinthians 7

Review: What Protestants Can Learn From Catholics

1. The depth and importance of tradition.
2. A high view of the sacraments – Communion, confession, anointing the sick, marriage, singleness.

What Catholics Can Learn From Protestants

1. The primary authority of scripture above all other authorities.
 - **Acts 17:11** – Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.
 - The “Jesus’ gift plus nothing” plan of salvation (Romans 3:28; 4:4-5; Galatians 2:16; 3:11; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9** – For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

Mary: AN awesome Example of Motherhood (Luke 1-2)

1. **Be a woman _____ to the Lord** (Luke 1:38)
2. **Be a woman of _____** (Luke 1:46-55)
 - In her song, Mary quotes or references Psalm 34:2-3; Psalm 18:46; Isaiah 17:10; Isaiah 61:10; Habakkuk 3:18; Psalm 138:6; Psalm 71:19; Psalm 111:9; Exodus 20:6; Psalm 103:17; Psalm 98:1; Isaiah 40:10; Genesis 11:8; Exodus 18:11; 2 Samuel 22:28; Jeremiah 13:9; Jeremiah 49:16; Psalm 107:9; Psalm 98:3
3. **BE a woman free of demands of _____, Its ok to _____!** (Luke 2:43-50)
4. **BE a Woman Who _____ the Childhood Years** (Luke 2:51-52)

Some Catholic Claims About Mary

Catholic Claims About Mary From Catechism (paragraph number)	What the Bible Says
1. Mary was born by immaculate conception free of original sin (490-492)	1. Mary, like all humans was born in sin (Ps. 51:5; Rom 3:10-12,23; 5:12)
2. Mary lived a sinless life (411,493)	2. Mary was a sinner in need of a savior (Luke 1:47; 2:22-24). Jesus is the only one that scripture says was sinless (Heb 4:15; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Peter 1:19)
3. Mary was a virgin before, during and after Christ – perpetually a virgin her entire life (496-511)	3. Mary was a virgin until birth of Christ (Mt 1:25), but had other children after Jesus (Mt 13:55-56; Jn 2:12; 7:5; Acts 1:14; Galatians 1:19; Ps 69:8)
4. Mary is the “mother of God” (963,971,2677)	4. Mary was the earthly mother of Jesus and made no contribution toward Jesus’ deity (Jn 2:1; Is 7:14; 9:6; Galatians 4:4; Jn 1:1-4; Col 1:16-20)
5. Mary is the “Mother of the Church” (963,975)	5. Mary is a believing member of the church (Acts 1:14; 1 Cor 12:13,27)
6. Mary is Co-Redeemer for she participated with Christ in suffering, and she offered her Son to the Father (618,964,968,970)	6. Christ alone is redeemer. He offered Himself as a sacrifice. He alone suffered and died for sin (1 Tim 2:5-6; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Hebrews 9:14; Jn 14:6; Is 43:11; Acts 4:12)
7. Mary is Co-Mediator to whom we can entrust our cares and petitions. We can pray to Mary and ask her to pray for us (968-970, 2677,2679)	7. Jesus Christ is the One Mediator to whom we can entrust all our cares and petitions (1 Tim 2:5-6; Jn 14:13-14; 1 Peter 5:7). We should pray to the Father (Mt 6:6-9). We can approach the throne of God in prayer ourselves (Heb 4:14,16). We should not pray to the dead (Deut. 18:10-12)
8. We should entrust ourselves to Mary. Surrendering “the hour of our death” wholly to her care (2677)	8. We should entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus, surrendering the hour of our death wholly to His care (Rom 10:13; Acts 4:12)
9. At the end of her life, Mary’s body and soul were assumed into heaven (Assumption, 966, 974)	9. History records Mary’s death and Scripture says that dead bodies return to dust (Gen 2:17; 3:19; Rom 6:23)
10. God has exalted Mary in Heavenly glory as “Queen of Heaven and Earth” (966). Mary is to be praised with special devotion (971,2675)	10. God alone is exalted (Ps. 148:13) We are to worship, praise and adore God alone (Ex. 20:3-4; Luke 4:8; Is 42:8; Rev 22:8-9)

Some Very Important Truths To Learn Here

1. _____ is worthy of our devotion, adoration, exaltation, veneration.
 - **Exodus 20:3-4; Revelation 22:8-9; Luke 4:8; Isaiah 42:8**
 - **Psalm 148:13** – *Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted.*
2. We are not to consult (pray to or ask prayer from) _____.
 - **Deuteronomy 18:10-12** *Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you.*
 - **1 Timothy 2:5-6** *For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men...*
3. We should pray to God _____!
 - **Hebrews 4:14,16** *Therefore, since we have a Great High Priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.... Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our tie of need.*
4. God wants us to have a _____ relationship with Him.
 - **You can have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. You do not need to pray to or through Mary or any saints. You can pray directly to God yourself. You can read and understand the Bible for yourself through illumination of the Holy Spirit.**
 - **Matthew 6:6-9** *But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling (using meaningless repetitions) like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. This, then is how you should pray: "Our Father..."*

1. DO I _____ anyone or anything that competes for my absolute allegiance to Jesus Christ?
2. Have I begun a _____ relationship with God through Jesus?
3. AM I utilizing the direct access to God's throne that Jesus has secured for me? Or am I relying on someone else to do all the _____?
4. AM I praying _____ the same things repeatedly (Matthew 6:7-8)? Or am I pursuing God as my closest companion and telling Him daily what is on my heart?
5. Do I know _____ in Christ? AM I renewing my mind to these truths by studying His word?
6. Is there any _____ or repenting of false worship or false praying that I need to do?

Practical Applications for My Life Today

Matthew 7:3 *Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?*