

# What Protestants and Catholics Can Learn from Each Other

“What About Mary and the Saints?”

Luke 1:26-38; 46-55 – 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 1:26-38;46-55
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

## 1. Avoid **ignorance** of Mary and the ones that came before you.

- a) Mary was a woman who was surrendered to the will of God (v. 26-38)
- Luke 1:26-38 - In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.
- b) Mary was a woman saturated with the Word of God (v. 46-55)

**46** And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

**47** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**48** for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

**49** for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

**50** And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

**51** He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

**52** he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

**53** he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

**54** He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

**55** as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

- John 13:15: “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”
- 1 Corinthians 11:1: “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”
- Philippians 3:17: Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

## 2. Avoid **idolatry** of Mary and the ones that came before you.

- Mary is a telescope we look through, not a savior we look to!**
- Luke 1:46-47: “And Mary said, “My soul **magnifies** the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...” (emphasis added)
- megalynō - meg-al-oo'-no - I'm to make great, to enlarge; Where we get our word for **magnify!**
- Saint Maximilian Kolbe** - “Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much.”

## 4 Marian Dogmas

- i. *Mary was born by an Immaculate Conception, free from original sin (490).*
- Ecclesiastes 7:20: Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.
  - Romans 3:10-12: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”
  - Romans 3:23: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- ii. *Mary was a virgin before, during and after the birth of Christ — perpetually a virgin her entire life (496-511)*
- Matthew 1:24-25: When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.
  - Matthew 13:55: Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?
- iii. *At the end of her life, Mary's body and soul were assumed into heaven (966, 974)*
- Genesis 3:19: “for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
- iv. *Mary is the “Mother of God” (963, 971, 2677)*
- John 2:1: On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
  - Mother of Jesus – Yes! But mother of God implies dangerous beliefs such as:

- Mother of the Church
- Co-redeemer
- Co-mediatrix
- Queen of Heaven

- 1 Timothy 2:5: For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus
- Acts 4:12: And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

To venerate is to regard with great respect or to revere. Veneration can be defined as "respect or awe directed toward someone due to his/her value or greatness."

Matthew 12:46-50: 46 While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. 48 But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" 49 And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

Luke 11:27-28: 27 As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" 28 But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

### 3. Consider the **jealousy** of God.

idol - a good thing turned to a God thing; anything that replaces the one, true God.

Joh Piper: "Anything in the world that successfully competes with our love for God is an idol."

Exodus 20:3-5: "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God,

- What about you? What has replaced God on the throne of your heart?

From Joe Carter's TGC Article: "How to Expose the Idols in Your Life"

- **Examine your imagination.** What do you daydream about? When your mind wanders, is it to material goods, like fishing boats and exotic vacations, or to intangible items, such as the fame of celebrity or the approval of your peers?
- **Examine your attention.** Consider the times you would rather be doing something else rather than practicing a spiritual discipline. What activity would you rather be doing instead? Are there one or more time-wasting activities you regularly turn to when to avoid engaging in more productive tasks?
- **Examine your finances.** Most of us have discretionary or disposable income, money left over after the bills have been paid. How do you spend your disposable income? For what material goods or services are you most likely to go into debt to finance?

- **Examine your prayer life.** How do you feel when God doesn't respond to your prayers in the way that you wanted? Do you trust that he knows best, or do you become angry and bitter? Have there been unanswered prayers that have made you doubt God's goodness or made you want to turn away from him?

- **Examine your relationships.** What person do you love the most? What person do you most want to please? Do you have friendships or romantic attachments that lead you away from God?

- **Examine your emotions.** What do you most fear? What do you most hope for? What are you most passionate about? What do you most desire? What makes you extremely angry or sad?

- **Examine your concerns.** What do you worry about? What makes you most anxious? What do you most fear losing?

- **Examine your past and future.** If you had a time machine and could travel into either the past or the future, what would you use it to change? What makes you nostalgic? What are your biggest regrets? What do you most want to happen in the future? What would cause you to despair if it didn't come to pass?

• Proverbs 14:12: There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

### 4. Consider the **beauty** of the Gospel.

- Matthew 27:45-54: **45** Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. **46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" **47** And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." **48** And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. **49** But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." **50** And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. **51** And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. **52** The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, **53** and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. **54** When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"
- Heb. 4:14-16: **14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.