

# Will The Real Mary Please Stand!



## Countering Roman Catholic Deceptions Regarding the Earthly Mother of Jesus

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The Mary of the New Testament is a worthy example to follow. She serves as an excellent illustration of Christian graciousness, sacrifice and spirituality. When we concentrate on what is clearly revealed in Scripture, we discover Mary as a woman of beautiful character, uniquely blessed of the Lord.

Dr. Luke tells us of the visit of Mary to her cousin. As she entered the house, Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, exclaimed, "*Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.*"

All who believe in the inspiration of the Bible must admit that Mary was chosen by God to fulfill a wonderful part in His plan. God didn't choose her on the spur of the moment. He had always known that she would be the instrument through which His Son would take human form. The word "*blessed*" means, "*brought into a joyful spiritual existence.*" It speaks of a pure happiness given by God. Mary's life exhibited God's Presence and His divine favor. She found her joy in Him. Every pain and discomfort of childbirth was eased by the knowledge that she was bringing forth the Messiah.

And she looked upon her baby in the manger, her joy overflowed. She was blessed of God in having given birth to the Saviour. As Jesus grew, Mary treasured in her heart the things He said and did. After years of her tender care, He left home to fulfill His short ministry, which proved to men that God loves them. Mary was with Jesus when He performed his first miracle. At the wedding feast, the servants asked for her help when the wine was gone. She spoke to Jesus, and then told the servants to obey His command. As they did, the water was turned into wine. Mary wisely said of Jesus, "*Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it*" (John 2:5). But Jesus never said, "*Do whatever she tells you.*"

Taking her place near the Cross, she watched the agonizing death of her Son. The sword pierced her soul as the torture of crucifixion ravaged the body of Jesus. But even as He was dying, she heard Him express His care for her.

She lived very close to the realities of God. We would do well to seek a similar genuine experience of His love. One of the early Church Fathers said of Mary, "*She was more blessed in believing in Jesus as her Saviour than in giving Him birth.*" An incident that Mark records proves this statement and shows us in what way Mary was highly favoured by God. During His teaching one day, a messenger told Him of His mother's arrival. He interrupted His teaching to ask, "Who is

My Mother?" In answer, He pointed to the crowd gathered about Him. "*Behold My mother...For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in Heaven, the same is my brother and sister and mother*" (Matthew 12:46-50)

God chose Mary because she was submissive to His will. And the Lord Jesus made it clear that a similar blessing comes to all who do His will. Those who do God's will enter into a family relationship with Him. Mary was most blessed because of this spiritual kinship with her Son. This was even more important than being the means of His human birth.

David tells us in the Psalms, "*Blessed is the people whose God is the Lord.*" The only way to have real peace and joy in life is to have a vital knowledge of God.

For centuries men have wondered how they might walk with God. Some have tried by observing religious ordinances, by becoming religious hermits or by giving up earthly comforts. One day, Jesus was confronted with this question, "*What must we do to work the works of God?*"

His answer was so simple that many religionists and devout thinkers have not understood it. The Lord Jesus said that only child-like faith is involved in working the works of God. It was this kind of faith that was expressed by a pure peasant maiden, on the hills of Galilee, when an angel told her she was to become the virgin mother of the Redeemer. The quality of this faith made Mary blessed among women. If you have the same kind of trust in God, you can find true happiness and contentment in Him. In her response to the angel, Mary spoke of God as her Saviour (Luke 1:47). Mary knew she needed salvation, and if Mary needed a Saviour, we certainly do.

Jesus commanded His disciples to preach the Gospel of Salvation. He never instructed anyone to have faith in a church. All the Gospel writers affirm that the Lord Jesus stated our faith must be firmly placed in Him. Our trust is grounded not in what we are doing for Him, but in what He has done for us. When Jesus died on Calvary, He said, "*It is finished,*" for there His redemptive work was completed. It is what He accomplished by dying for us, and God's authentication of His death by raising Him from the dead that is grasped by simple faith.

It is true that He died for the whole world. The staggering reality is that He died for you; He died for me! God accepted the redemption of Calvary as payment for your sins. Jesus is able to save you today.

Acknowledge your sin, your absolute spiritual poverty before a holy God. Rest your eternal happiness and contentment on the strength of what He has done for you. No angel or saint can forgive you. No church is able to take your sins away. Jesus paid your complete debt to God for you. You are a sinner. You need the Lord Jesus. Come to Him and accept the benefits of His

salvation on Calvary. He gives complete forgiveness, assurance of salvation and a changed life that will give you daily power to live for Him.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES	THE HOLY INSPIRED BIBLE TEACHES
- Mary is the Mother of God. 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church, 963, 971, 2677.	- Mary was the earthly mother of Jesus. John 2:1; Luke 1:43.
- Mary is the Mother of the Church. 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church, 963, 975.	- Mary is a member of the Church. Acts 1:14, First Corinthians 12:13, 27.
- Mary was preserved from all stain of original sin from the first instant of her conception. (The Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception). 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church, 490 – 492.	- Mary, a descendant of Adam, was born in sin. Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12.
- Mary, “ <i>the all-Holy</i> ,” lived a perfectly sinless life. 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church, 411, 493.	- Mary was a sinner; God alone is holy. Romans 3:10, 23; Luke 1:47, Luke 2:24; Revelation 15:4.
- Mary was a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Christ. 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church, 496 - 511.	- Mary was a virgin until the birth of Christ. Later she had other children. Matthew 13:55-56; Psalm 69:8; John 7:5; Galatians 1:19.
- Mary is the co-redeemer, for she participated with Christ in the painful act of redemption. 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church, 618, 964, 968, 970.	- Christ alone is the Redeemer, for He alone suffered and died for our sins. First Peter 1:18-19.
- At the end of her life, Mary was assumed body and soul into Heaven (The Doctrine of the Assumption). 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church, 966, 974.	- Upon her death, Mary’s body returned to dust. Genesis 3:19.
- Mary is the co-Mediator to whom we can entrust all our cares and petitions. 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church, 968 – 970, 2677.	- Jesus Christ is the one mediator to whom we can entrust all our cares and petitions. First Timothy 2:5; John 14:13-14; First Peter 5:7.
- We should entrust ourselves to Mary, surrendering “ <i>the hour of our death</i> ” wholly to her care. 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2677.	- We should entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ, surrendering the hour of our death wholly to His care. Romans 10:13; Acts 4:12.
- God has exalted Mary in heavenly glory as Queen of Heaven and Earth (966). She is to be praised with special devotion. 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2675.	- The Name of the Lord is to be praised, for He alone is exalted above Heaven and Earth. Psalm 148:13. God commands, “ <i>you shalt have no other gods before Me.</i> ” Exodus 20:3.

COMPARE THE ATTRIBUTES OF JESUS CHRIST WITH THE ATTRIBUTES THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH GIVES TO MARY -

THE CATHOLIC VERSION OF MARY	THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
Immaculately Conceived	Conceived of the Holy Spirit
The Mother of God	The Son of God
Born without sin	Born without sin
Committed no sin	Committed no sin
Suffered at Calvary's Cross	Suffered on Calvary's Cross
Bodily Assumed into glory	Bodily ascended into glory
Queen of Heaven	King of Heaven
Queen of Peace	Prince of Peace
Channel of all grace	Source of grace
Co-redeemer	Redeemer
Mediatix	Mediator
Advocate	Advocate
Second Eve	Second Adam