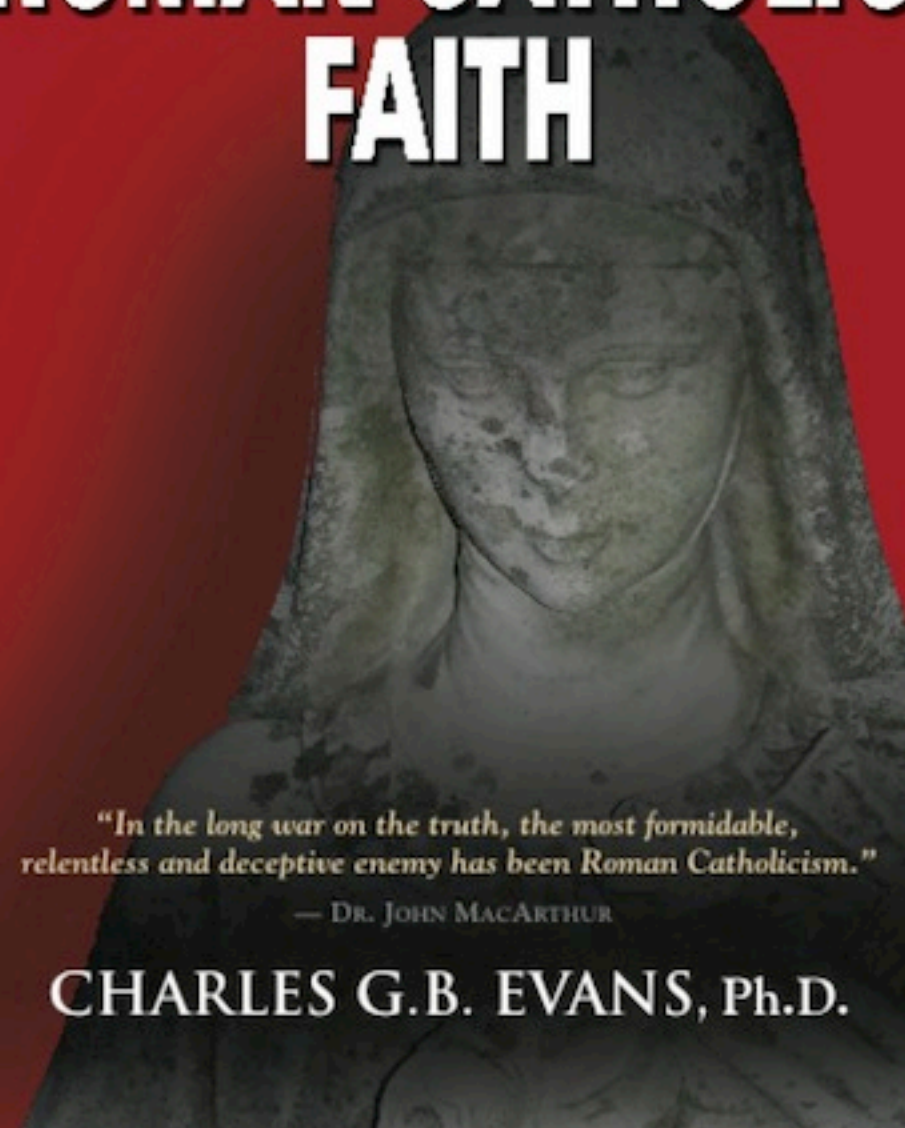


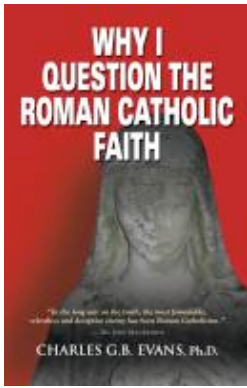
# WHY I QUESTION THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH



*"In the long war on the truth, the most formidable, relentless and deceptive enemy has been Roman Catholicism."*

— DR. JOHN MACARTHUR

CHARLES G.B. EVANS, Ph.D.



*Is Roman Catholicism the same as mainline Christianity? Are the differences important? Was Peter the first pope? Was Mary sinless? Was she a perpetual virgin? Can she hear and answer our prayers? What about the mass? Why don't protestants practice it? These questions and more are addressed in **WHY I QUESTION THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH** by Charles G.B. Evans, Ph.D. An excellent resource for any questioning Catholic as well as interested non-Catholics wishing to know more about these monumental differences.*

# **WHY I QUESTION THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH**

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Charles G.B. Evans Ph.D.

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## THE QUESTION OF MARY

Perhaps the most obvious place to begin our study of Catholicism would be with that of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Such overbearing emphasis and devotion to Mary is obvious within the Roman system that it is reasonable to wonder why.

In keeping with the format of this treatise, let us first consider some of the things that Rome actually says about her before proceeding.

"Mary is the Ark of God, the center of the universe, the cause of creation, the business of the ages. Towards her turn the men who have gone before us, we who are now living, those who are to follow us, our children's children, and their descendants. *If we have any chance of salvation, we have it all from Mary.* Go, then, have recourse to Mary."(emphasis added) Saint Bernard

St. Bernard also said, "All men past, present and to come, should look upon Mary as the means and negotiator of salvation."

Richard of St. Laurence "encourages sinners to have recourse to this great name," because *it alone* will suffice to cure them of all their evils; and "there is no disorder, however malignant, that does not immediately yield to the power of the name of Mary." (emphasis added)

Also..."Mary is the mistress of heaven, for there she commands as she wills and admits into heaven whom she wills."

"Let all the children of the Catholic Church who are so very dear to us, hear these words of ours. With a still more ardent zeal for

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piety, religion and love, let them continue to venerate, invoke and pray to the most Blessed Virgin.

Mary, Mother of God, conceived without original sin, let them fly with utter confidence to this most sweet Mother of Mercy and Grace and all dangers, difficulties and needs, doubts and fears. Under her guidance, under her patronage, under her kindness and protection, nothing is to be feared. Nothing is hopeless because while bearing toward us a true motherly affection and having in her care the work of our salvation, she is solicitous about the whole human race and since she has been appointed by God to be the Queen of Heaven and earth and is exalted above all the choirs of angels and saints, and even stands at the right hand of her only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, she presents our petitions in a most efficacious manner. ***What she asks she obtains, her pleas can never be unheard.***" (Pope Pius IX) (emphasis added)

Abbot Garrick said, "He who serves Mary and for whom she intercedes is as certain of heaven as if he was already there. And ***those who do not serve Mary will not be saved.***" (emphasis added)

"Nothing resists her power for God the Father looks upon her glory as if it were His own and...God the Son taking delight in glorifying her grants her every perfection **as if He were paying a debt.**" (The Glories of Mary by Alphonsus Liguori Pg. 22) (emphasis added)

St. Bonaventure exclaims, "Give ear, O ye nations, and all you who desire heaven. ***Serve, honor Mary and certainly you will find eternal life.***" (emphasis added)

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**"The Son is under great obligation to her.** Jesus, to pay what He owes to Mary, listens to her requests and grants them." (emphasis added)

"All you who hunger for the Kingdom of God **honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and you will find life and eternal salvation.**" (emphasis added)

"Mary is the ark which saves from eternal destruction anyone who takes shelter in it. **Under the shelter of Mary sinners are saved.**" (emphasis added)

"If Mary ignores or condemns anyone, that person is inevitably lost."

"Whoever bears the mark of devotion to Mary, God recognizes as His own."

"To honor the Queen of Heaven, the Queen of Angels, is to gain eternal life. This most gracious lady will honor in the next world those who honor her in this world. Let us therefore always with our hearts and tongues honor this divine mother in order that we may be conducted by her into the Kingdom of the blessed. Salvation of sinners should come from the remembrance of her praises whose womb was made the way through which the Savior came to save sinners. **All graces are dispensed by Mary. All who are saved are saved only by the means of this divine mother. The salvation of all depends upon Mary and her intercession.** Blessed are they who bind themselves with love and confidence to these two anchors of salvation, Jesus and Mary. They will not be lost. Farewell until we meet in paradise at the feet of this most sweet mother and this most loving Son, there to praise them and to love them face-to-face for all eternity." (emphasis added)

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**"The divine mother can be called the Savior of the world."**  
(Catholic catechism, 1994, p. 402) (emphasis added)

"Enraptured by the splendor of your heavenly beauty and impelled by the anxieties of the world, we cast ourselves into your arms, O immaculate mother of Jesus and our mother, Mary we adore and praise the peerless richness of the sublime gifts with which God has filled you above every other mere creature from the moment of conception until the day on which your assumption into heaven He crowned you Queen of the Universe. O crystal fountain of faith, bathe our hearts with your heavenly perfume. O conqueress of evil and death, inspire in us a deep horror of sin which makes the soul detestable to God and the slave of hell. O well-beloved of God, hear the ardent cries which rise up from every heart in this year dedicated to you. Then tenderly, O Mary, cover our aching womb, convert the wicked, dry the tears of the afflicted and the oppressed. Comfort the poor and humble. Quench hatred. Sweeten harshness. Safeguard the flower of purity. Protect the holy Church. In your name resounding harmoniously in heaven, may they recognize that all are brothers and that the nations are members of one family. Receive, O sweet mother, our humble supplications and above all, obtain for us on that day, happy with you that we may repeat before your throne that hymn which is sung today around your altars, you are beautiful, O Mary, you are glory, O Mary, you are the joy, you are the honor of our people." (Pope Pius XII)

"Mary shares our human condition but in complete openness to the grace of God. **Not having known sin**, she is able to have compassion on every kind of weakness. She understands sinful man and loves him with a mother's love. Precisely for this reason she is on the side of truth and shares the Church's burden in



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recalling always and to everyone the demands of morality."  
(Pope John Paul II) (emphasis added)

"One of the greatest means of salvation, one of the surest signs of predestination is unquestionably the devotion to the most Blessed Virgin. ***A devout servant of Mary shall never perish.***"  
(Heaven Opened by the Practice of the Three Hail Mary's)  
(emphasis added)

Liguori writes, "A person deprived of Mary's help falls first into sin and then into hell.....God will not save us without Mary's intercession...***In Mary we find life and eternal salvation.*** She is the happy gate of Heaven." (emphasis added)

Page 566 offers; "At the command of Mary all obey, ***even God.***"(emphasis added)

The Roman Catholic Catechism from 1994, page 490, number 2030 says; "The Church finds its example of holiness and recognizes its model and source in the all-holy Virgin Mary."

Referring again to The Glories of Mary, we read on page 348; "She is called the holy child and she progressed in perfection. ***Born sinless, the all-holy virgin progressed in sinless perfection.***" (emphasis added)

"No grace is conferred on man without her actual intercessory cooperation...Mary's sublime dignity as Queen of Heaven makes her supremely powerful in her maternal intercession for her children on earth. She intercedes to God and Christ to get the grace for whatever we need and it never comes except by her intercession." Ott page 212, page 211.

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Liguori says, page 159, "We may be afraid to go to God because it is His infinite majesty we have offended, Mary has nothing in her to terrify us..."

"God decreed all graces through her hands...Mary is the source of every good and the absolute master of all graces." Liguori

"No grace accrues to men without the intercession of Mary." Ludwig Ott

"Every prayer of Mary's *is like an established law for our Lord*, obliging Him to be merciful to everyone for whom she intercedes." Liguori (emphasis added)

"Mary throws open the door of God's mercies to anyone **she** pleases when **she** pleases as **she** pleases. Liguori (emphasis added)

"As you were not worthy that anything divine should be given to you, all graces were given to Mary so that you might receive through her all graces you would not otherwise receive....This is the will of God who willed that we should have all things through Mary. If then, we possess any hope or grace or gift of salvation, let us acknowledge that it comes to us through her." St. Bernard (Quoted by St. Louis de Montfort in Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, #42).

"O Virgin most pure, wholly unspotted, O Mary, Mother of God, Queen of the universe, you are above all saints, the hope of the elect and the joy of all the blessed. It is you who have reconciled us with God, you are the only refuge of sinners and the safe harbor of those who are shipwrecked; you are the consolation of the world, the ransom of captives, the health of the weak, the joy of the afflicted and the salvation of all who have recourse to you,

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and we beg you to have pity on us." St. Ephrem of Edessa, in Prayer to Mary, Mother of Compassion.

"...we find in Mary the end of the law and the fulfillment of the figures and oracles." Pope Pius X, in Ad Diem Illum Laetissimum (On the Immaculate Conception), Encyclical promulgated on February 2, 1904, #6.

"Hail, Mother and Virgin, imperishable temple of the Godhead, venerable treasure of the whole world, crown of virginity, support of the true faith on which the Church is founded throughout the entire world.

"Mother of God, who contained the infinite God under your heart, whom no space can contain..." St. Cyril of Alexandria, in Paean to Mary, Temple of the Godhead.

"The pious and learned Jesuit, Suarez, Justus Lipsius, a devout and erudite theologian of Louvain, and many others have proved incontestably that devotion to our Blessed Lady is necessary to attain salvation. St. Louis de Montfort, Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, #40.

I wish I could say that these are the only such quotes available. Unfortunately, that is far from the truth. Those provided above are the proverbial tip of the iceberg.

The fact of the matter is that just about any Roman Catholic publication one cares to glance through will most assuredly contain at least some reference to Mary, so important is she to the entire system.

Of course this is one of the main areas in which we (Protestants) find ourselves in major disagreement with the teachings of

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Rome. We completely and whole-heartedly oppose the grand devotion given Mary by the Catholic Church, NOT, as they like to say, because we dislike or disrespect her in any way, but simply because Scripture nowhere indicates such a lofty position for her.

Let us now continue to consider Mary and what the Roman Catholic Church has to say about her.

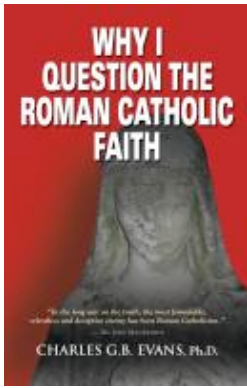
## **IS IT PROPER TO WORSHIP MARY?**

Before attempting to answer this question I feel it would be beneficial to investigate the motherhood of Mary.

I strongly and firmly believe that although Mary did conceive and give birth to Jesus, she is not actually and literally His mother, or at least, she is not His mother as we classify mothers today. Rather, she was merely a vessel chosen for His human birth.

Allow me to explain - We consider a woman to be a mother when she conceives and gives birth to a new life, a life which has never existed before. Mary, however, gave birth to the Creator of all things, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Contrary to the opinion of many of the cults, the Bible plainly and clearly teaches that Jesus Christ has always existed (Revelation 1:8). In all actuality He was alive long before His “mother” Mary was born! Logically then, it is correct to state that Mary was actually created by Jesus (John 1:1-3; Colossians 2:9). Mary is the mother of the human Jesus as opposed to the Lord Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Trinity, God Himself. Understand this – when Jesus walked the earth some 2,000 years ago, He was very much the God man. He did NOT stop being God when He took on the form of a human man. So, in that sense, yes, one could say that Mary was the “mother of God.” However, and this is important, this entire argument really boils down to a case of semantics. Yes, Jesus was/is God in the flesh. Still, Jesus being very much God, and therefore from everlasting to everlasting, He existed long before Mary was ever born. The bottom line is simply that the phrase “mother of God” is extremely misleading and causes untold millions to



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