

A short dialogue about Mary

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George: “What about your worshipping Mary or praying to the saints, or the baptism of babies, or praying to statues...?”

“Whoa,” I said, “Let's take them one at a time. Let's start with Mary, the Mother of Jesus. What is your question?”

George responded, “Why do you worship Mary? Jesus referred to her by saying 'who is my Mother...' It doesn't appear in Scripture that she was as special as you Catholics believe her to be.”

“Let's look at this from a logical perspective.” I said, “To begin with Catholics do not worship Mary in any way, shape or form. As you know, the commandment teaches that we are to worship God and God alone. The Catholic Church literally condemns the worship of anything or anyone other than God in the Trinity. I must admit that we Catholics hold Mary in the highest regard, but in doing so we are simply emulating God.”

“How so?”, George inquired.

“Consider this,” I said, “Jesus (as God) created his own Mother. Do you agree?”

“Yes”, said George.

“Now, if you were God, and decided to create your own Mother, the Mother of the Incarnation, would you not make her perfect in every way?”

George, once again agreed.

“The Bible tells us that nothing unclean will enter heaven, (Rev. 21:27). Doesn't it stand to reason that if nothing profane can be in God's divine presence in heaven, then God would not come into the world in a soiled vessel? The Catholic Church teaches that Mary was conceived in her mother's womb, without the taint of the sin of Adam, which we call Original Sin. She would have to have been pure in every way or it would be an affront to God's majesty. We call this doctrine the 'Immaculate Conception.’

“Now,” Let's go on I said. “God gave us the Ten Commandments, one of which tells us to 'Honor our Father and Mother', is this not so?” Once again George agreed. ‘Don't you think that Jesus would have followed this commandment concerning His Mother to the fullest, when as God He could do no less?’”

“Yes, I guess so,” said George.

“In this regard it would have been a rejection of His own commandment if he allowed His Mother to come under the power of Satan even for an instant. Again, I asked, ‘Do you agree?’ and once again George nodded his head in agreement.

“OK, so you agree that Mary was conceived without sin and remained sinless her entire life, is this not so?”

"Yes", said George.

“What loving Son would refuse his Mother any request within his power to grant? Remember, the Miracle at Cana? Mary came to Jesus and said that the wedding party had run out of wine. Jesus responded that it was not yet his time, but Mary continued and said to the chief steward, 'Do whatever He tells you.' It seems to me that Jesus had made it quite clear that he was not ready to reveal His miraculous powers, but as a dutiful Son He could not refuse His loving mother.

“This is why Catholics pray to Mary. Not because we believe that she has any miraculous power. She cannot heal our infirmities, forgive our sins, or grant us salvation. This can only be accomplished by God. What Mary can do is intercede for us with her Son. We believe that, while every Christian, in a state of grace has intercessory power, Mary alone is 'full of grace' and all generations will call her blessed.”

George interrupted, “But Jesus said that he alone was the way to the Father. Why do we have to go through Mary?”

“We don't have to go through Mary,” I responded, "Nothing prevents us from going to Jesus directly in prayer. But we believe that the prayers of the righteous are apt to be more favorably answered,

assuming that we are acting within the will of God.

“Paul continually exhorts the early Christians to pray for one another. As Mary and the other saints in heaven are truly alive, maybe more so than when they were on earth, they can pray for us. Don't you think those that are in heaven would be continually praying for those of us still struggling through our lives?”

“Well, I suppose so,” Answered George, “I have just not thought of this in that way.”

“To sum up, we Catholics believe that Mary was conceived without sin, remained sinless throughout her life and that as the Mother of our Savior, she is also our Mother, for we too are children of God.

“God choose Mary above every other human being who would ever live to be the Mother of His son. He honored her above every other creature; don't you think that we should also?”

“Yes”, said George.

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