

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

ADORATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY




© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

1

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

Images of the Virgin Mary



© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

2

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM



© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

3

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM



© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

4

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM



© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

5

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM



“To begin with the first point, it is certain that Mary’s soul was the most beautiful that God had ever created. In fact, after the Incarnation of the Eternal Word, this was the greatest and most worthy act that the omnipotent God ever accomplished in this world.”
 “The Blessed Virgin was sanctified in her mother’s womb beyond all saints and angels.”
 (GLORIES OF MARY, pages 20 - 21)
 © 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

6

 **Comparative Religion I**
CATHOLICISM
THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

There are four main teachings that Catholics hold regarding the Virgin Mary.

1. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – 1854 AD
2. MOTHER OF GOD – 431 AD
3. PERPETUAL VIRGINITY – 649 AD
4. ASSUMPTION OF MARY – 1950 AD

We will take a look at these in the light of the Scriptures!

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

7

 **Comparative Religion I**
CATHOLICISM
THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – 1854 AD



This teaching states that MARY was conceived without original sin since she had to give birth to the Son of God, she could not have original sin. This was one of the more recent dogmas concerning Mary.

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

8

 **Comparative Religion I**
CATHOLICISM
THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – 1854 AD

This position states that Mary was born without original sin. From the instant of her conception, she was without original sin that is passed on normally to all human beings because of Adam's sin.

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

9

 **Comparative Religion I**
CATHOLICISM
THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – 1854 AD

The decree in 1854 states, "We declare, pronounce and define that the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, at the first instant of her conception was preserved immaculate from all stain of original sin, by the singular grace and privilege of the Omnipotent God, in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind, and that this doctrine was revealed by God, and therefore must be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful."
 (ROMAN CATHOLICISM, page 207)

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

10

 **Comparative Religion I**
CATHOLICISM
THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – 1854 AD

 To Refute: HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THE BIBLICAL TEACHING?

- Show Mary's genealogy (Luke 3:23) – She was a normal person.
- Explain what sin is – I John 3:4 – an action.
- One does not pass on sin – Deuteronomy 24:16 - The effects of sin may be brought upon our progeny, though.

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

11

 **Comparative Religion I**
CATHOLICISM
THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – 1854 AD
CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DOCTRINE

- This doctrine appears to make Mary more special than any normal human since she was born without original sin.
- She is therefore looked upon more highly in this special elevated condition.

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

12

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

MOTHER OF GOD - 431 AD

This doctrine states that since Mary was the mother of Jesus and since Jesus was God in the flesh, she is therefore the mother of God.



© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

13

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

MOTHER OF GOD - 431 AD

Here is a quote from a Catholic booklet, THE MOTHER OF JESUS, page 9. “Mary could well be praised by the angel as ‘blessed among women’ because of the marvelous title which would be hers when she conceived Jesus Christ. She was not merely the mother of a son, but the mother of a divine Son.”

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

14

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

MOTHER OF GOD - 431 AD

Some other titles given to Mary by the Catholic Church

- MOTHER OF MERCY
- MOTHER OF GRACE
- SPOUSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- QUEEN OF HEAVEN, QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES, QUEEN OF THE ANGELS
- THE DOOR OF PARADISE
- THE GATE OF HEAVEN

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

15

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

MOTHER OF GOD - 431 AD

TO REFUTE: WHAT WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- Luke 1:42 – She was a blessed woman to bear the Son of God
- John 2:4 – Jesus had to give her a mild rebuke showing her humanity
- Matthew 11:11 – John the Baptist given high praise by Jesus – of equal status with Mary.
- Silence of the Scriptures on Mary’s position – given to the Apostle John – John 19:26, she apparently lived out her years with John.

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

16

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

MOTHER OF GOD - 431 AD

CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DOCTRINE

- Mary is adored – (Latinized Greek) “Hyperdulia” is given to her – Great honor, but not “Latria” which is service to God. “Dulia” is honor to give to others
- The Rosary – consists of 150 Hail Mary’s and 15 Our Fathers

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

17

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

MOTHER OF GOD - 431 AD

CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DOCTRINE

- Prayers to Mary are considered very valuable since as the Mother of God she can obtain what she desires and has more compassion than the Father or Jesus Christ. She always gets what she desires!
- She becomes the Mediatrix between God and man.

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

18

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

PERPETUAL VIRGINITY – 649 AD

THE MEANING OF THIS DOCTRINE

- Mary remained a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Jesus Christ. Her virginal membranes were left intact! She was a companion and cousin to Joseph and that was all (though they had a marriage ceremony).

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

19

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

PERPETUAL VIRGINITY – 649 AD

“Mary told him she wished to remain a virgin as she was at Temple School. ‘I want to dedicate my life to God, Joseph,’ she said.”



“Joseph agreed they could continue to love each other as they always did as cousins.” (THE LIFE OF MARY, p. 25)

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

20

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

PERPETUAL VIRGINITY – 649 AD

TO REFUTE: HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER THIS DOCTRINE?

- Matthew 1:25 – “knew her not ‘til...”
- Matthew 1:25 – “her firstborn...” Indicates others to come
- Mark 6:3-6 – Jesus had brothers and sisters
- Matthew 12:46 – His mother and brothers
- Psalms 69:8 – “my mother’s children”

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

21

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

PERPETUAL VIRGINITY – 649 AD

CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DOCTRINE

- Glorify chastity and celibacy
- Elevate Mary above other women
- Encourage others to remain virgins throughout life
- Make it seem like sex is bad

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

22

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

ASSUMPTION OF MARY – 1950 AD





© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

23

Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

ASSUMPTION OF MARY – 1950 AD

THE MEANING OF THIS DOCTRINE

- Mary’s soul had already been taken to heaven at her death, so it was right to decide that her body was taken up as well. Catholic doctrine is that at death the soul is assigned to one of three places; heaven, hell, or purgatory. At the last judgment, the body will be raised to join the soul in whatever area it is in.

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

24



Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM



ASSUMPTION OF MARY – 1950 AD

TO REFUTE THIS DOCTRINE

- Hebrews 9:27 - Appointed to all to die and then the judgment
- Psalms 6:5; 146:4 – No knowledge in grave
- Acts 2:29 – David, a man after God’s own heart, was still in grave
- I Corinthians 15:52 – The Last Trumpet call will bring the dead forth
- I Thessalonians 4:16 – That is when the dead in Christ (including Mary) will rise.

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

25



Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

ASSUMPTION OF MARY – 1950 AD

CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DOCTRINE

- Mary has pre-eminence above all other humans
- Brings Mary greater adoration
- Makes individuals more likely to pray to her (Communion of the Saints) since she is entirely in heaven – body and soul
- Elevates her above the Scriptural teaching of when a person will be changed.

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

26



Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

- Prayers to Mary:

Hail Mary

“Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.” (MY CATHOLIC FAITH, page 418)

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

27



Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

- Prayers to Mary:

Hail Holy Queen.

“Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy; hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning, and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!” (MY CATHOLIC FAITH, page 419)

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

28



Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

About Mary:

“You have a Father and Mother in heaven, dear children. Your Father is Jesus, and your Mother is Mary. Do not forget that a mother’s heart is always more tender and more prone to mercy than that of a father.”

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

29



Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

About Mary:

Often you offend your Father by your sins; you make Him angry against you. What takes place in heaven then? Your Father in heaven takes His rod to punish you. He threatens to crush you down with His roaring thunder; He opens the gates of hell to cast you into it, and you would have been damned long ago had it not been for the loving Mother whom you have in heaven, who has disarmed your angry and irritated Father.”

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

30



Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

ASSUMPTION OF MARY – 1950 AD

- About Mary (continued):
 “When Jesus would punish you as you deserve, the good Virgin Mary hastens to Him and pacifies Him. She places herself between Him and you, and prevents Him from smiting you. She speaks in your favor, she asks for your pardon and she obtains it.” (50 YEARS IN THE CHURCH OF ROME)

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

31



Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

- About Mary (continued):
 “It is well to greet Our Lady with a *Hail Mary* whenever we hear the clock strike.”
 “Whenever we leave the house or return we can greet Mary with a *Hail Mary*, so that she will preserve us from sin both at home and while we are away. We might also kiss her feet in spirit each time as the Carthusian Fathers do.”

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

32



Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

- About Mary (continued):
 “We should reverence every statue of Mary we pass by, saying a *Hail Mary*. For this purpose those who can afford to do so should have a statue of the Blessed Virgin in their homes so that all who come there may venerate her.” (THE GLORIES OF MARY)

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

33



Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

SUMMARY OF THE LECTURE

- Mary has been given virtual deity status by these teachings about her. Luke 11:27
- We should realize her importance in bearing Jesus Christ.

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

34



Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM

SUMMARY OF THE LECTURE

- We should not allow the wrong teachings about her to cause us to forget what a special, blessed person she was.
- We will look forward to meeting her in the resurrection with all of the dead in Christ.

© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

35



Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

THE VIRGIN MARY – ACCORDING TO CATHOLICISM



© 2003 United Church of God, an International Association

36