

The Triune Post

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Is Jesus 200% Real?

By: Jordan Bergeron

Poor Arius is a very famous former Christian with whom many people are familiar. He is one of the men throughout history who made the claim that the Christ was only a man, and not God. Luckily, we have a Church that this Christ founded with the promise that it would teach us the truth. This Church has taught us, with conviction, that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God, and that He is both man and God. He is 100% man and 100% divine. Neither of these two qualities take away from the other. In His love for His creation, particularly man (man meaning both male and female, the way He created them), He humbled Himself to become human, because before anything ever was, He is. (S. John 8: 57,58) We know this from the first chapter of the Gospel of S. John where we are told that, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." It was very well said by Blessed Bishop Ful-

ton Sheen that in the Transfiguration, where Our Lord showed His glory to Sts. Peter, James, and John, that this version of Himself was much more natural for Him. His face shone like the sun, and His clothing became brilliantly white. In other words, to become human, He may have had to constantly repress His glory. Man cannot look upon the face of God and live, at least not in his fallen condition. So what does a God Who loves man do? He becomes man, so that those whom He loves can look at Him and speak with Him, and one day spend eternity with Him. It is fine to make the argument that Our Lord was man and God and even more to be correct in doing so, but there must be some point to this argument, otherwise, it is vain effort to just be correct and win an argument.

What are the wages of sin? There is only one word needed here, death. (Romans 6:23) In the first sin in the garden, our first parents, Adam and Eve, earned us

total separation from God and death of the soul because they chose to sin. So what are the wages of righteousness, and even more so, what are the wages of a man Who has never sinned dying in place of those who have sinned? The answer is eternal life. This doctrine can be difficult to understand, but it can be understood. How does this save us? How does one Man dying and coming back from the dead do anything for us who are still sinners?

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Is It Okay to Love the Mother of Jesus?

By: Jordan Bergeron

The fourth commandment of God to His people is, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you," (Ex 20:12). Catholics believe that Our Lord, the Christ, was and is sinless, but that He was like us in all things except sin (Heb 4:15). It might rather be said that we are like Him (Gen 1:26)

in everything except that we are sinners, but that will be saved for another time. Being sinless, God humbled Himself to be obedient to man, because He was obedient to Joseph and Mary (S. Luke 2:51). Many people have said, "love is an action, not a feeling," and this is a good description. One great action of love is to submit to another in obedience (1 S. Jn

2:3-5). So by submitting in obedience to His mother and foster-father, the Christ loved His mother and His foster-father. In loving them, He also then loved His Father. It is through loving one another and following the commandments that we can love Almighty God in heaven. There is hesitation in some.... *Continued on P. 3*

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Is Jesus 200% Real?

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It is of great importance to understand that Our God is eternal, not everlasting. Everlasting means that once it exists, it never ceases to exist. A human soul is everlasting, but Our God has no beginning and no end (Rev 1:8), and is therefore eternal. Eternal means that it always was, always is, and always will be. If something always will be, then it can have no death, ever. But as Christians, we believe that Our God died for us to save us. How is an eternal God to die? By becoming something that can die. By becoming man. This is why it is *necessary* that Jesus is man. But Our Lord could not just be a man who was made divine by offering a perfect sacrifice of Himself to God. If that were the case, then God would cease to be God because there would be a being that He made equivalent to Him. This is not logically or sensibly possible. For God to make something else also God would mean that the being He made also God would then, at that moment, begin to be eternal, because God is eternal. Nothing begins to be eternal. If something is

eternal, it always is. So if Our God died for us to save us, this makes it *necessary* that Jesus also be God from eternity, not that He was made into a god.

Now that it has been established that Jesus, the Son of God, is man and God, it can further be understood how His death saved us. By becoming man, He put Himself under the power of sin and death even though He never sinned. There lies the glory of God, that He can bring good out of evil. In suffering the humiliation of dying as man, God then defeats death, by rising, *after He has been killed*. No mere man can do this, it is by the power of God that this was accomplished. This means that He can never die again. By dying, He destroyed death. He then offers for us to join Him and become part of His line of descendants, to be part of the family of God, children born of God, not anymore of men! (S. John 1:12-13) We inherit the traits of our ancestors. Our hair color, skin color, and bone structure are just some traits that we receive from our ancestors. So if there is a Man Who is the Son of God, Who offers for you to

be His relative by His own power and He can never be killed, this means He offers you eternal life because He becomes your brother and you become a child of the Eternal God. This is how He saves. You join His family by being baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (S. Matt. 28:19)

In speaking to Nicodemus, Our Blessed Lord tells him that one must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom. He speaks of baptism. And knowing that baptism makes you part of Him and makes you His brother or sister, it makes sense to refer to baptism as being born again. You truly are born again when you are baptized. Born into the family of the Eternal God.

Not that "200% real" is an actual possibility; nothing can exist more than 100%, but the Christ could be fully man and fully God. And if there is still doubt, we can always refer back to the words of the holy S. Thomas, "My Lord, and my God!" (S. John 20:28)

Scorn All Tradition? (Part 1/2)

By: Jordan Bergeron

I went to my friend's house for thanksgiving, and they handed out gifts to each other and all the children were playing with new toys that Santa Claus had delivered on Thanksgiving Eve when everyone was asleep. Then I went to that friend's house for Christmas Day and all we did was read from the Bible, went to Mass, and celebrated the feast of God joining His creation by being born of the Holy Virgin. No one mentioned Santa Claus, no one had new presents, no one asked anything about anyone getting anything new.

"You leave the commandment of God and hold fast the traditions of men," (S. Mk 7:8). This is what the Christ said when speaking to the Pharisees on one of their traditions. This is a popular Gospel passage of those who like to say that the Catholics sin by following "man-made tradition" and add rules to life *in addition* to the Bible. Several things must be noted. The first is that the Bible would not exist without tradition. Would it be okay to say that the Bible is man-made tradition because it was written by men? If that were the case, then we should get rid of it too, right? Because tradition is bad, right? Isn't that

what Our Lord was saying in the gospel of S. Mark? I hope you perceive the sarcasm in the author's tone here. We cannot get rid of the Bible. It is the Sacred word of God. A man has to consider that God allowed His Church to select what was in the Bible. This selection and the belief that the books of the

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Bible belong there, *is a tradition*. The only difference is that it is a *Sacred* tradition. It is not made by man but given to man from God. The example in the beginning of the article is meant to show the diversity of man-made traditions, but the traditions of God do not change because God does not change. The different Thanksgiving and Christmas traditions at the friend's house could confuse a person experiencing them because they are not the normal

traditions to which that person is accustomed, but they are not sacrilegious. It is just a difference in traditions, albeit an extreme one. When considering two different religions such as Catholicism and, say, Methodism, difference in tradition will look like this for one example. Catholics believe Christ is present in the Eucharist and Methodists believe that Christ is not present in the Eucharist, nor does such a thing exist. What the Methodist teaches in his church about the Eucharist is his tradition, and what the Catholic teaches in his Church is his tradition. Here is the question now to answer; which tradition comes from God? Both men teach what they teach based on the Sacred Scriptures, but which one of them is correct and how is a person supposed to know? The answer lies in Sacred Tradition. Sacred Tradition is what has been handed down from the beginning by the Apostles as the divine revelation of God. So the Lutheran does not believe in confessing his sins to a priest, but the Catholic does. Again, whose tradition is correct? Both are traditions, it's just that one is man-made and the other is divine.

Is It Okay to Love the Mother of Jesus?

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to love the Holy Mother of God. This is understandable to some degree because we are instructed to have only one God, and sometimes holy devotion can make us feel like we are taking something due to God and giving it to someone else, giving it to a creature rather than the Creator. This obstacle can be easily overcome by recognizing one thing. Christ wants us to love one another, and He wants us to honor our parents, mother and father. Upon the Holy Cross, Our Savior gave us His mother to be Our Mother, knowing from eternity who she was to be, before she ever existed. In giving us His mother to be ours, He presented us with the command to honor her, that our days may be long in the land which the Lord gives us. We must set out to honor and love this most perfect Woman, mother-of-all-the-living, as Our Mother, that our days may be long in the Kingdom of God. As Christians, Catholics want to imitate Christ. It is understood that those others who call themselves Christians want to do the same thing and imitate Christ. A good question to ask then would be, is it not

imitating Christ to love the Blessed Mother? Another challenge that someone might bring up is that she is no longer here, so to speak to her as if she is would be attempting to speak with the dead. To believe that Our Mother is dead necessarily negates what we, as Catholics, believe. It would even negate what others who call themselves Christians believe, that we enter eternal life if we believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ. As Christians, we believe that profession of Jesus as Lord and confession that He is Our Savior allows us to enter into heaven. Heaven is eternal life, and there is nothing dead in it. So even if someone does not hold the Blessed Mother in the high esteem in which he should, as a Christian, he should not deny that someone who believes in Christ would remain dead. How ridiculous it would be to say that His own mother would not believe in Him! Therefore, whether Catholic or not, those who believe must then admit that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is in heaven with Him, which would make her *more* alive than any of us. Heaven is where true life is because in heaven, the body can no longer die. It

is no longer subject to the consequence of original sin, namely, death.

Another item to contemplate, now that it is understood that Mary is in heaven and can hear us, is how the Christ feels about our feelings about His mother. A man better make sure he knows what he is doing before he refers to the Mother of God as, "just a vessel." Personally speaking, this author would not take kindly to someone referring to my mother that way, and I am just a man. I cannot imagine He would take kindly to someone speaking of His mother that way, and He is God. Think of this; it pleases God when we love who He loves, so to love His mother pleases Him, and you will never love her more than He does. So if you would ever talk to your deceased relative as if his spirit could hear you somehow, why not much more this pure Mother of the Christ be able to hear you? Here is an invitation for you to say today, "I love you, Mary. Thank you for being the Mother of Jesus. I love Him, too."

Why Would You Baptize an Infant? (Part 1)

By: Jordan Bergeron

This is the first article in a series of articles that will address something that many non-Catholics, and surprisingly even Catholics, do not understand and to which they raise objection. There are two main ideas that prompt these concerns and the questions that follow them. The first idea is babies have no personal sin, therefore no baptism is needed. The second idea is an infant has no idea what he or she is experiencing in baptism because the understanding is not there until a later age. For some religions the age is eight, for others it could be all the way into adulthood. There are some misunderstandings that must be clarified, and this can be done through the teaching of the Church. The teaching of the Church, when it is true, leads man into understanding and answers all of his questions. Clearly an infant does not have the rational understanding of what is happening in baptism, nor can he fully consent to the baptism or proclaim that Jesus Christ is his personal Lord and Savior. It is important to note before progressing through these articles that unless a person believes that Baptism is a *Sacrament that can effect grace*, that person will likely think that Baptism is only an

outward sign of an inner disposition of the heart that must be confessed at an older age. This makes perfect sense, *if and only if Baptism is not a Sacrament*. In researching this topic, answers to the objections were sought in Sacred Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), and other related writings within the Sacred Tradition of the Church. The search was thorough, but not exhaustive; there is more out there on this subject that is not mentioned in the articles.

The simple answer for why an infant can be baptized just as well as an adult is, Baptism is for *both* personal *and* original sin. In Baptism, a person is cleansed of all sin, given God's grace, and he is reborn of water and the Spirit (S. Jn 3:3-6). This rebirth allows him to begin life as a son of God. This is astounding to think that God allows mankind to become His children! (S. Jn 1:12). This provides an answer to the title question, and it is a perfectly sound answer backed by Catholic theology, even if it does not convince anyone. As proper an answer as it is, it is only an answer, and not an explanation of why the answer is correct. This author, due to my human weakness, sometimes

lacks the trust to just listen to God and feels like a deeper explanation is necessary. Necessary to understanding the reason for Baptism, infant or adult, is an understanding of *original sin*. Many people now have either lost the understanding of, know it but do not believe it, or they have never been taught about, original sin. We are not born with personal sin. We are born *in a state of original sin*. This is the mystery of transmission of original sin. Understanding original sin as being *transmitted sin*, rather than *committed sin*, helps us to understand that it is something passed down to us at birth. A good analogy would be a child having brown hair because the mother and the father have the genes for brown hair in their genetic structures. It is highly unlikely that two brown-haired, brown-eyed parents will make a child with blue hair and blue eyes. In fact, to the author's knowledge, there is no parent that can make a child with blue hair. We cannot genetically pass on something we do not have. That is exactly the case with original sin. There is something not passed on because it is not had by the parents. Stay tuned for the next article in this series, where we find out what we now lack.

Do you want to become a Christian? Join the Catholic Church. Do you already consider yourself a Christian but feel like there is something you are missing or that you do not have the fullness of Christ that you search for? If so, please consider joining the Catholic Church. You can seek membership in the Church by contacting St. Agnes Catholic Church parish and asking about joining. You can also seek out any other Catholic Church to ask about joining. All Catholic Churches are part of the same body of Christ, so if you want to become a Christian, seek out any Catholic Church.

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Why We Need Jesus Christ

In the beginning of creation, man was created to be in holiness and justice with God, but man chose to disobey God and sinned. This was the first sin committed, by Adam and Eve, and it separated man from God. The result of this sin is that man now has to die. He no longer had eternal life with God after this sin, and so his life became mortal. If this sin was never committed, we would not know death, because death would not exist among God's creation. God tells us in the book of Wisdom in the Bible that He, "did not create death, and He does not delight in the death of the living." (Wis 1:13) But the Bible also tells us that "the wages of sin is death," (Rom 6:23). Man inherited this condition of sin and its result from his first parents, Adam and Eve. This does not mean that man committed the sin that Adam and Eve committed. It means that he inherited a sinful nature because after sin, Adam and Eve could no longer pass on original holiness. This is an inherited condition of being separated from God. It is not because

of a sin we committed that we are born this way, but this does give us an inclination to sin, because it makes us fallen from the glory of God. The good news is that there is a second part to Romans 6:23 to finish the sentence. It says, "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus Our Lord." (Rom 6:23) Christ came to earth and became man so that He could save us. He did this by conquering death. He conquered death by offering Himself up for crucifixion. When He died, He also rose from the dead, and this is how He conquered death for us. He is the New Man who starts the new creation in Himself, and if we are in Him, we are part of that new creation, and death, the result of

sin, no longer has power over us. So how do you become part of Christ? The first thing necessary is to call to mind that you are a sinner in need of God's mercy. After this, call on God's mercy by being baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is rebirth. It takes you from being born of Adam and makes you born of Christ, so that you are in Him. To be baptized, you must belong to His Church. His Church is the way to salvation, and He offers you His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity through this Church that you may fully be part of Him and you may have life, life eternal, life to the fullest, in the glory of God, forever.

NOTE

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