

RCIA HO Class 25 Review of Fundamentals

We have found in the course of our examining the students in RCIA and Religious Education that they are having some difficulty grasping some fundamental concepts. This may be, in part, due to the fact that some of those concepts are rather abstract and transcend (not defy) reason.

- 1) There is only one God, but that one God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There are not four gods nor four persons (father, son, holy spirit, and Jesus). God has always existed. He created the universe and time. No one and nothing created God. He simply IS.
- 2) JESUS is the name given to the Son AFTER the Annunciation/Incarnation (the miraculous or virginal conception) when Gabriel told Mary she would be the mother of the Son of God. It was at this moment that GOD the SON (the Second Person of the Trinity) took on human flesh from Mary and became BOTH God and man. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is both God and Son of God.
- 3) Mary is not God and not divine. She is only human, but also preserved free from sin (the Immaculate Conception). Catholics do not worship Mary because she is not God.
- 4) The Catholic Church is the Church that JESUS established with Peter, the first pope. Other Christian churches are not at all like the Catholic Church because they do not recognize the pope as the successor of Peter, and they do not have any valid sacraments other than baptism because they do not have the priesthood (sacrament of Holy Orders). We are made members of the Church by baptism, which also takes away original sin (the sin we inherit from Adam and Eve).
- 5) The Church's teachings are passed on to us in two ways: the Bible/Scriptures and Tradition (handed down through the popes and bishops). No one can change the Church's Tradition.
- 6) The Mass is both a sacrifice (JESUS gives Himself to the Father for us), and a sacrament/the Eucharist (JESUS gives Himself to us). Catholics are obliged to attend Mass every Sunday. It is gravely sinful to deliberately skip Mass, not because God needs us, but because we need to give ourselves to God in imitation of Christ (Five Precepts). (CCC2041)
- 7) In the Eucharist/Holy Communion JESUS is really present in a supernatural way, body, blood, soul, and divinity. We do not receive bread and wine in the sacrament of the Eucharist. We receive the substance of Jesus who is God in the flesh. When we are conscious of having committed grave sin, we must not receive the Eucharist before going to Confession. We do not receive "communion" in a Christian church even if they welcome us, and we do not allow non-catholic Christians to receive the Eucharist because we do not believe the same things.
- 8) There are two types of sin: mortal and venial. Mortal sin separates us from God and we can only be put back into communion with Him through the sacrament of Confession. Venial sin weakens our relationship with God and is forgiven by prayer and the Eucharist. Three conditions make a sin mortal: serious matter = serious sin such as 10 Commandment stuff, full knowledge that the matter is serious, and free will, i.e. choosing freely to commit what we know is a mortal sin. Mortal sins MUST be confessed in the sacrament of Confession (Penance/Reconciliation). The Church recommends that we confess our sins at least once a year even if we have no mortal sins on our soul.

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- 1) Explain the relationship between ONE and THREE with regard to the Trinity.
- 2) Is Jesus God? Is Jesus the Son of God? Is Jesus really human? Is Jesus alive or dead?
- 3) Explain what happened to God the Son when Gabriel told Mary she would be the mother of Jesus.
- 4) The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would be the mother of the Messiah/God. According to Mohammed, the same angel told Mohammed 600 years later that Jesus was not the Messiah/God. What does that mean?
- 5) Why do Catholics worship Mary if she is not divine/God?
- 6) What do we call the Church that Jesus established 2,000 years ago? What is the difference between Jesus' Church and the churches started by other guys? What do we call those churches?
- 7) What is the difference between Tradition (capital T) and tradition (small t)?
- 8) What is the only valid sacrament that non-Catholics have? Why don't non-Catholic churches have sacraments?
- 9) Do we receive bread and wine in the Catholic Church when we receive Communion?
- 10) When do we need to use the sacrament of Confession? How often may we use the sacrament of Confession? What are the other two names for the sacrament of Confession?
- 11) How can we know that Jesus is present in the Eucharist?
- 12) May Catholics receive communion in other churches? Why or why not?
- 13) What are the two actions that Jesus carries out in the Mass?
- 14) Why did Jesus die on the Cross?
- 15) How is Original Sin taken away from our soul?
- 16) Where did the 10 Commandments come from?
- 17) How many commandments are there in the 10 Commandments?
- 18) Are you having fun yet?