

Transitive Property & Salvation outside the Catholic Church!

Intro song: **O Come, All Ye Faithful** by *Curtis Stephan*

Prayer:

For the conversion of sinners

a unification of all the faithful under the one, holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church

For an end to abortion & a new Culture of Life!

May the Holy Innocents pray for us!

Feast Day of the Holy Innocents December 28th

Listening to Teresa Tomeo this morning - reflected on this question & a conversation with a baptist waiter!

If $A=B$, & $B=C$, Then $A=C$!

- In a nut-shell, the Catechism of the Catholic Church declares that it is the Catholic Church which is the ark, with a new Noah, Jesus Christ, at its helm, which saves the people of God from death and condemnation... therefore the Catholic Church is the instrument of salvation in the world (CCC 845-847).
 - Bold statement!
 - The sacrament of Salvation IS the Catholic Church!
 - Is there salvation outside the Catholic Church?
 - No!
 - Does that mean that non-Catholic won't be saved? NO... lets look at it!
- **A=salvation, B=Jesus, and C=the Catholic Church.**
 - **A=B**
 - (A) Salvation is equal to (B) Jesus Christ
 - "**JOHN 3:15**"... [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."
 - **St. John 14: [6]** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."
 - The very name Joshua (Hebrew version of the Greek Jesus) means "he saves"
 - This is a fairly obvious one!
 - **B=C**
 - (B) Jesus Christ being equal to (C) the Catholic Church
 - Exclusivity?

- makes folks squeamish...
- most want to accept all paths to heaven and exclude no-one
- A Conversation with a Baptist Waiter!
 - Personal relationship
 - No religion
 - Mystical Body - NOT a tangible body!~
- Personal relationship with Jeremy
 - I visit him, spend time with him, talk with him & even eat with him
 - He has physical attributes which are tangible, definable, and easily discernible.
 - If Jeremy is an actual person, and not a mystical concept, then it stands to reason that Jeremy may have some say in how that relationship is established, and lived.
 - If I decide what that relationship looks like then I merely have a relationship with the concept of Jeremy & NOT Jeremy actually!
- Jesus is a REAL person
 - who really was born of a woman ([Galatians 4:4](#)), walked the earth, nailed to a tree, died, rose from the grave and then ascended to sit at the right hand of God the Father. (**1 Cor. 15:13&14** - NOT raised then our faith is in vain)
 - Jesus is Truth itself, and Truth is NOT an abstract concept rather a real person. A person with physical attributes which are tangible, definable, and easily discernible.
 - As a Catholic I have a very personal relationship with him every day; I spend time with him, I speak with him, then I receive him on my tongue and eat his body and drink his blood... there is nothing more personal than that. **Try that with a friend and see what happens!**
 - IF he's a real person then he will have something to say about how the relationship is entered into and lived!
- What is the Church?
 - No where in the New Testament do we find where Jesus came to "wipe away", "start fresh", "create anew" a Church separate from the one which God already established at the foot of mt Siani.

- **St. Matthew 5:** [17] "Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them."
- So Christ didn't come to throw out the qahal (the Hebrew word for Church used to describe the people of Israel in the Old Testament) but, rather, he came to perfect it, to purify it through the fire of suffering and sacrifice, into the ekklesia we read about in Hebrews 12.
- Parable of the householder - **St. Matthew 21:33-46**
 - They, the evil tenants, used and abused the owners property, then plotted to kill the son so THEY could inherit the "vineyard"... the son saw the son coming, they seized hold of him, took him OUTSIDE the vineyard, and killed him!
 - Question... who was Jesus speaking to?
 - verse [23] "And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"
 - And what did our Lord tell them at the end of the parable? "I will throw out the Church you have abused and start a new and better one! One without all the liturgies, and hierarchy, and religion! I will just have followers who want to hang out with me and get to know me personally!"?
 - Uh....no! Look at verse [43] "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it." [45] When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.
 - It seems pretty clear Jesus was taking away the "Cathedra" of Moses (seat of Moses - or authority) from the Chief Priests and elders and giving it to NEW Chief Priests, and NEW elders (**St. Matthew 23:2**)!
- So where is the Priesthood? Where is the sacrificial system?
 - for starters we see Jesus quoting from **Isaiah 22** when he gives the "keys of the kingdom" to St Peter in **St. Matthew 16**. The language is

very specific and refers to the office of the sagan kohanien, the "over the house", or "chief steward" in the Davidic Kingdom. This man wore the vestments of the high priest, bore the keys of the Kingdom/temple and was considered the 2nd high priest.... "and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah" (Is. 22:21).

- Other names for father... aba... or say pappa... or pope... know anyone else who
 - has the "keys of the kingdom",
 - wears the vestments of the high priest,
 - is the chief Steward for the king,
 - and is affectionately referred to as the pappa/pope, or father to the inhabitants of the kingdom?
 - Your right... this is just a coincidence, there's nothing to see here... please move along!
- How about the upper room?
 - **Luke 22:** [20] And likewise the cup after supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.
 - Jesus, the High Priest, is here commanding the 12 to take the cup, which is HIS blood, and pour it out...
 - Where does blood get poured out?
 - At the alter in the Temple by the Priests!
 - When's the last time we saw 12 Priests offering sacrifice where the blood of the covenant is poured out for the people?
 - Exodus 24!
 - How about **John 13:**
 - [4] rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel.
 - [5] Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded.

- [6] He came to Simon Peter; and Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"
- [7] Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand."
- [8] Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me."
- [9] Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"
 - Evoking Exodus 40:31 - the washing & ordination of Arron & his son's by Moses - ordaining them as High Priest & ministerial Priests
- How about **John 14:**
 - [2] In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
 - Specific language... when the Priests were chosen, by lot, to serve in the Temple... they stayed in cells/ rooms in the Temple itself... the House of the Lord... Jesus' Father's House!
 - This is a reference to the Priesthood!
 - BTW - when Judas' Bishopric was being replaced... how did they decide? By casting Lots! **Acts 1**
- So,,,, there are Bishops, Priest, Deacons, a NEW Lamb for the Sacrifice!
 - How is Jesus & the Body united?
 - **Ephesians 5:**
 - [23] For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.
 - [24] As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands.
 - [25] Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

- [26] that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
- [27] that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- [28] Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
- [32] This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church;
- **Mark 10:**
 - [5] But Jesus said to them, "For your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.
 - [6] But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'
 - [7] 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,
 - [8] and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh.
 - [9] What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder."
- The Wedding feast of the lamb! **Revelation 21**
 - Jesus is the Bride Groom and HIS Church is the Bride...
 - The two become ONE flesh through the sacraments!
 - See that you all follow the Bishop, as Christ does the Father, and the presbyterium as you would the apostles; and reverence the deacons, as a command of God. Let no one do anything connected with the Church without the Bishop. Let that be considered a certain [βεβαία, "valid"]. eucharist which is under the leadership of the Bishop, or one to whom he has entrusted it. Wherever the Bishop appears, there let the multitude of the people be; just as where Christ Jesus is, there is the catholic church [ἡ καθολικὴ ἐκκλησία].
 - **St. Ignatius of Antioch, c. 110 AD, Letter to the Smyrneans 8**

- So...
 - (A) Salvation is equal to (B) Jesus Christ
 - (B) Jesus Christ being equal to (C) the Catholic Church
 - Therefore
 - (A) Salvation MUST be equal to (C) The Catholic Church!
- Can NON Catholic's be saved?
 - Yes, provided they have NOT willfully & knowingly rejected the Church, the normal means of salvation for mankind, which Jesus Christ founded!
 - Everyone who is saved... is saved through the Catholic Church because it IS the very Body of Christ himself!
 - ccc **776** As sacrament, the Church is Christ's instrument. "She is taken up by him also as the instrument for the salvation of all," "the universal sacrament of salvation," by which Christ is "at once manifesting and actualizing the mystery of God's love for men." The Church "is the visible plan of God's love for humanity," because God desires "that the whole human race may become one People of God, form one Body of Christ, and be built up into one temple of the Holy Spirit."
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