

Catholicism Compared to What We Believe Pt2A
Perpetual Virgin Mother Doctrine
Scripture Text: 2 Peter 2:1–3
05/20/2018

2 Peter 2:1–3 (NKJV) 1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

“Will the road that you're travelling on get you to my place?” God

How should we handle doctrine of other religions or denominations? Well, instead of wasting an enormous amount of time trying to prove it one way or the other ask yourself **“is this question essential or nonessential to my faith.”** It is very unlikely you will be able to convince a person to forgo their religion or denomination on the spot. Whether Mary remained a virgin or not (which I believe she didn't) how do you prove it and what effect does it have on my faith in Jesus? Don't let the devil sidetrack us or cause more division between others.

Last week we covered several titles attributed to Mary as a Mother that are include in Catholic doctrine:

1. **Mother of God Doctrine** – This is based on the Doctrine of the Trinity which they teach that God is in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If so than Mary the mother of Jesus is then by extension the mother of God. Then is she the mother of the Trinity? This doctrine has Pagan roots.
2. **Mary the Queen “Mother” of Heaven Doctrine** – This doctrine also has pagan roots as pointed out in *Jeremiah 7:18 and Jeremiah 44:17-25*.
3. **Mary, the influencer/ intercessor Doctrine** – This is a false doctrine birth out of miss-application of two scriptures passages, *1 kings 2:13-20* and *John 2:2–3*. There is only one mediator between God and Man, the Man Christ Jesus. *Romans 8:26, Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, 1 Timothy 2:5*.

4.

Today we pick up with the final two we will spend time on:

1. Mary the Mother of John

Although there was no blood connection between the two, Jesus in accordance with the law being the oldest of her children was responsible for His mother's care. He thereby created an adoption between the two making Mary Johns mother and John Mary's son. *John 19:26–27 (KJV 1900)* ²⁶ *When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!* ²⁷ *Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.*

We now come to the last major doctrine concerning Mary and her “Motherhood”.

1. **Mary the Perpetual Virgin Mother.**

It has long been a Catholic claim that Mary was virgin at the birth of Jesus and remained so the rest of her life even though she was married to Joseph. This “perpetual virgin” doctrine is deeply grounded within the denomination to the point of possible excommunication.

This doctrine is taught through **The Protoevangelium of James (aka Gospel of James) which is an apocryphal Gospel** probably written about AD 145.

The *Protoevangelium* records that when Mary’s birth was prophesied, her mother, St. Anne, vowed that she would devote the child to the service of the Lord, as Samuel had been by his mother (*1 Sam. 1:11*)

- a. Excerpt: "And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by [St. Anne], saying, ‘Anne! Anne! The Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive and shall bring forth, and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world.’ And Anne said, ‘As the Lord my God lives, if I beget either male or female, I will bring it as a gift to the Lord my God, and it shall minister to him in the holy things all the days of its life.’ . . . **And [from the time she was three] Mary was in the temple of the Lord as if she were a dove that dwelt there**" (*Protoevangelium of James* 4, 7 [A.D. 120]).

However, due to considerations of ceremonial cleanliness, it was eventually necessary for Mary, a consecrated "virgin of the Lord," to have a guardian or protector who would respect her vow of virginity. Thus, according to the *Protoevangelium*, Joseph, an elderly widower who already had children, was chosen to be her spouse. According to the *Protoevangelium*, Joseph was required to regard Mary’s vow of virginity with the utmost respect.

The perpetual virginity of Mary has always been reconciled in the meaning of the term "brethren" to mean Jesus’ stepbrothers (children of Joseph) rather than half-brothers (children of Mary)

It was Jerome who introduced the possibility that they were actually his cousins, since in Jewish idiom cousins were also referred to as "brethren." The Catholic Church allows the faithful to hold either view, **since both are compatible with the reality of Mary’s perpetual virginity.** I say that there is only one truth.

<https://www.catholic.com/tract/mary-ever-virgin>

2. The Scriptures address this very clearly.

Matthew 1:25 (NLT) ²⁵ *But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.*

Mark 6:3 (NKJV) ³ *Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and **brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon (not brethren)**? And are not **His sisters(not brethren)**, here with us?" So they were offended at Him.*

Here are some additional passages where the other sons of Mary by Joseph are mentioned (*Matt. 12:46; 13:55; Mark 6:3; John 2:12; 7:3, 5, 10; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 9:5; Gal. 1:19*).

We must study the true word in order to avoid false doctrine.

Let me share with you a rule that I have. If a passage is not 100% clear or there may be some confusion “presented” I take what I read “literally” and trust God to either reveal the truth or give me grace according to my understanding.