



## “The Blessed Mother” (Luke 1:26-56)

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### Misconceptions about Mary

- She Is A Perpetual Virgin
  - “Mary, the Mother of God, remained a virgin not only in the conception of Christ but also in His birth and during the rest of her life.” (Baltimore Catechism)
  - Gal.1:19...James the Lord’s brother
  - Matthew 12: 47 Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." 48 He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" 49 Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."
  - Matthew 13: 55 "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"
  - John 7: 3 Jesus' brothers said to him, "You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. 4 No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." 5 For even his own brothers did not believe in him.
  
- **She** Was Born Of An Immaculate Conception
  - This doctrine was introduced by Pope Pius IX in 1854 and goes like this, “We declare, pronounce and define that the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, at the first instance 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 Savior of mankind, and that this doctrine was revealed by God, and therefore, must be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.”
  
- She Is Co-Redemptrix
  - “Because of her consent to accept the office of Mother of the Redeemer, and also because of her merits in intimately sharing the sufferings of her Divine Son for the salvation of mankind, the Blessed Virgin is given the title of Co-Redemptrix of the human race.” (A Catechism of Christian Doctrine, p.65).
  - I Tim.2: 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...

- That She Ascended Physically Into Heaven
  - Pope Pius XII said, "Now God has willed that the Blessed Virgin Mary should be exempted from this general rule (death). She, by an entirely unique privilege, completely overcame sin by her Immaculate Conception, and as a result she was not subject to the law of remaining in the corruption of the grave, and she did not have to wait until the end of time for the redemption of her body...We pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma" that the Immaculate Mother God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

None of these teachings are even remotely found in the Scriptures. Apart from Acts 1:14, Mary is mentioned nowhere else outside the gospels. Not only is there no Scriptural support for these doctrines introduced by the Catholic church, but Scripture refutes them.

\* Luke 11: 27 As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you."  
28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Despite the Catholic church's false teaching about Mary, she nevertheless is "The Blessed Mother." She and no one else had the tremendous privilege of giving birth to the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. And there are many things we can learn from her life.

- Great men & women of God can come from the most unlikely places.
  - John 1:46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.
  - Galilee was the redneck region of Israel, and Nazareth was the "capital."
  - See John 7:50-52 (Jonah came from Galilee)
- Young people are capable of great faith
  - David & Goliath, Samuel, Esther, etc.
  - Mary knew the Word. Her praise is filled with phrases from the OT, as well as a deep knowledge of the character and ways of God. Can't you see Mary in the synagogue? She hung on every word that was read and taught. She meditated on the things she had heard. She loved the Word of God.
- Mary's humility (vv.48, 51)
  - God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.
- Mary's servant heart
  - She did not rebel against God's will, question His plan, or try to change it. She wanted God's will for her life, because she was His servant. She would embrace the will of God for her life, even if it meant that no one would understand (and few did), even if Joseph "divorces" her, even if it affected everything about her life, for the rest of her life. Her getting pregnant would jeopardize her relationship with Joseph, her upcoming marriage to him, her relationship with her parents, friends, relatives, etc.
  - See Luke 17:7-10

- What would be unacceptable in the will of God for your life? What has been unacceptable in the will of God for your life?
- Did you know that God is a servant? (See Matt.20:25-28)
  
- She was pregnant with Christ
  - Pregnant: Full of; abundant in
  - Col.1:27...the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.
  - We Christians have this amazing privilege of having Christ conceived in us by the Holy Spirit, then being pregnant (full of) Christ.
- Mary's willingness to suffer disgrace for Christ
  - When she went back to Nazareth after three months with Elizabeth, she would have been showing. What would her parents do? Joseph did not believe her (Would you?). And think how the small town community of Nazareth must have treated her...and Mary knew that this is what she would face. She determined in her heart that she was willing to suffer whatever disgrace came with the will of God for her life.
  - Acts 5: 41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.
  - Hebrews 11: 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.
  - Hebrews 13: 13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.
  - II Tim.1:8...join with me in suffering for the gospel.
  
- Mary's supreme love for God
  - Mary loved the Lord more than she loved her friends, her family, her parents, herself...and more than she loved Joseph. This one really reveals Mary's heart for God. How many times has a young person's heart been captured so that they readily abandon all other relationships in order to be with "the one they love?" Romantic love is a powerful force in someone's life.
  - Even though her fiancé had obviously captured a piece of her heart, his name surprisingly does not appear in Mary's encounter with Gabriel, informing Mary of her coming pregnancy. Even though a wedding was in Mary's immediate future plans, it is not what dominates her mind here. Her words are saturated with references to God, but none about Joseph. She doesn't even ask, "What will Joseph think?"
  - When did Mary tell her parents about Gabriel's message to her? Was it before she went to visit Elizabeth? I don't think so, or her parents would have said, "You ain't goin' nowhere girl!" Mary left, knowing that when she returned, everything about her relationship with her friends and family would be different. And she knew that Joseph would most likely divorce her.
  - Matt.1: 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
  - Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my disciple.

- Mary (& Joseph's) commitment to sexual purity
  - In this culture the betrothal stage was taken very seriously. As a matter of fact, to break a betrothal required a certificate of divorce. Since Joseph and Mary are going to be married anyway, and especially since Mary didn't have to worry about getting pregnant, they could have lowered their moral standards. And Mary was already going to suffer disgrace for being pregnant, so this made the temptation that much greater.
  - Matthew 1: 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.
  - What a rare couple Joseph and Mary were! What a righteous standard of morality they submitted to! God help us to hold to that same standard in our day!
  - See Eph.5:3; I Thess.4:1-8
  - One of the reasons we do not see more people "pregnant" with Christ in our day is because sexual sin is so rampant in the church, and the standards of morality regarding sexual sin are terribly lax!
  - I Tim.5: 1...Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

Because sexual sin is so common in the church, and because our standards are so low in this area, there is little or know godly sorrow when we fail sexually.

Anyone of us can fail sexually, but a real man or woman of God is convicted and affected greatly if they do.

Psalm 51: 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me...10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

## CONCLUSION

The same miracle that God performed in Mary, He wants to perform in each one of us. Christ is "conceived" in us miraculously when we are born again. Then, we carry Christ within us. As we grow and mature, we "show" that we are pregnant with Christ.

## Salvation invitation

What's keep you from being "pregnant" (full of) Christ? Sexual sin, pride, not a servant, unwillingness to suffer disgrace for Christ? Repent today, and let Christ fill you.

Mothers, are you a mother filled with Christ? Living with that boyfriend is sin, and it's an awful example to your children. Having sex outside of holy matrimony is a sin. Repent today, and let Christ fill your life.