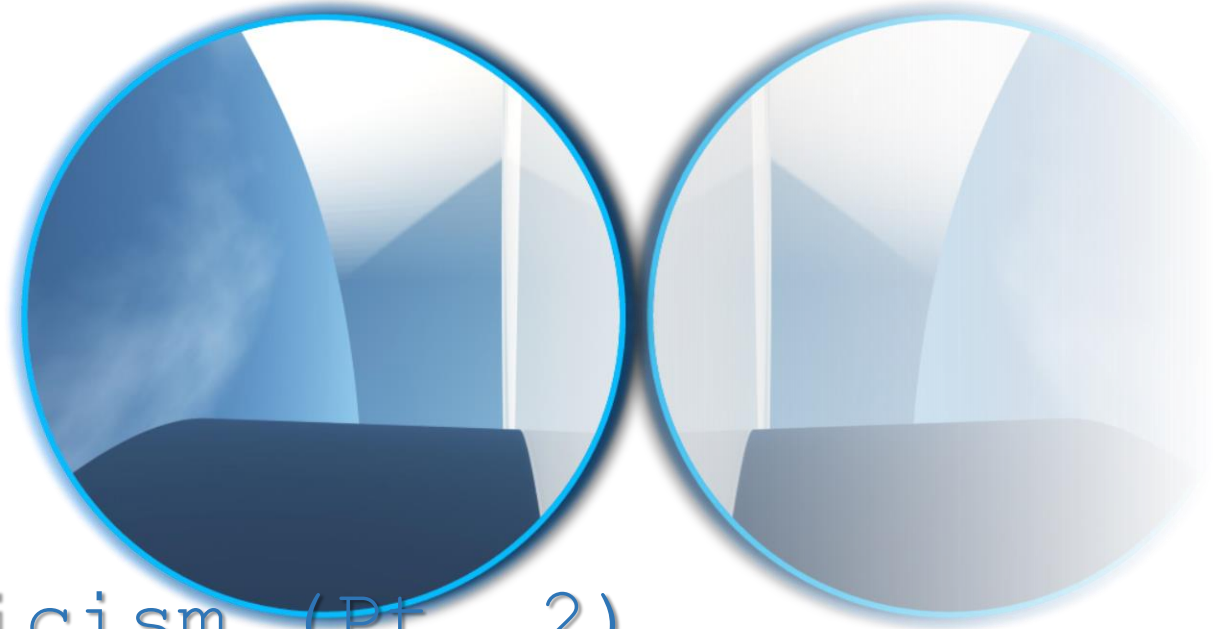


# Worldview & Worshipers

## Section 2: Christian Branches

SECTION 2: CHRISTIAN BRANCHES



## Lesson 7: Catholicism (Pt. 2)

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## Theology and Practices

The Bible Church of Little Rock  
EH FALL 2025

# Introduction: Course Definitions of Key Terms

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## Worldview:

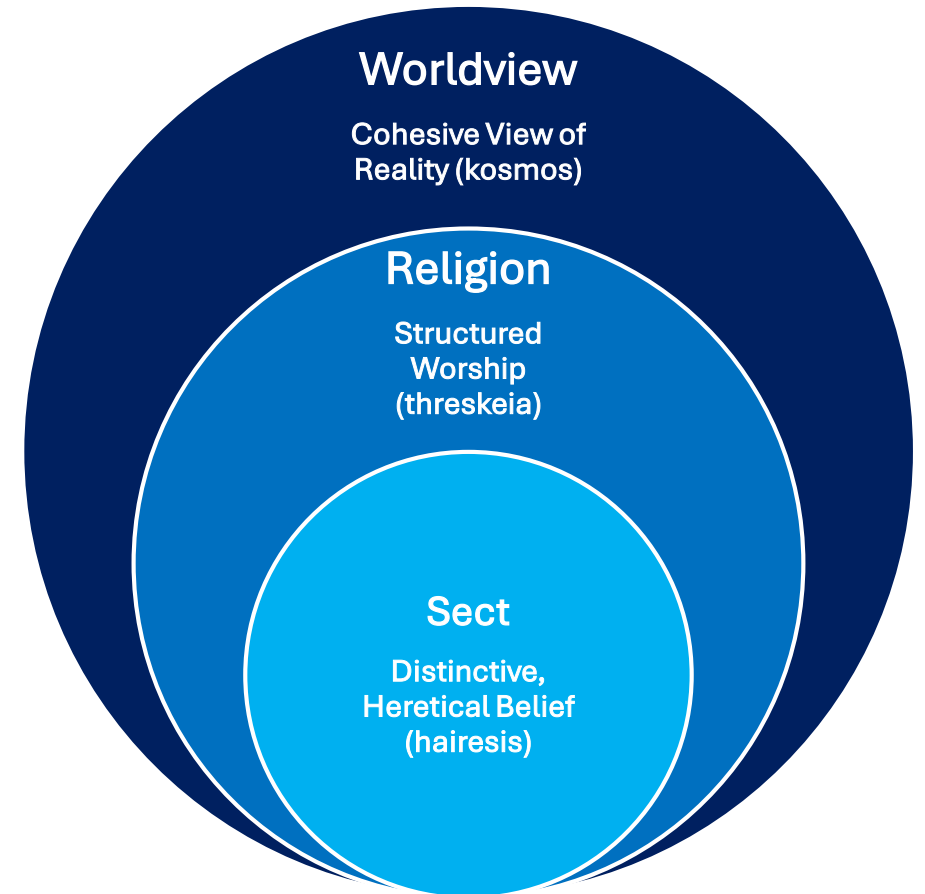
- A Cohesive and Complete Framework of Beliefs that Explains Existence (Creation).

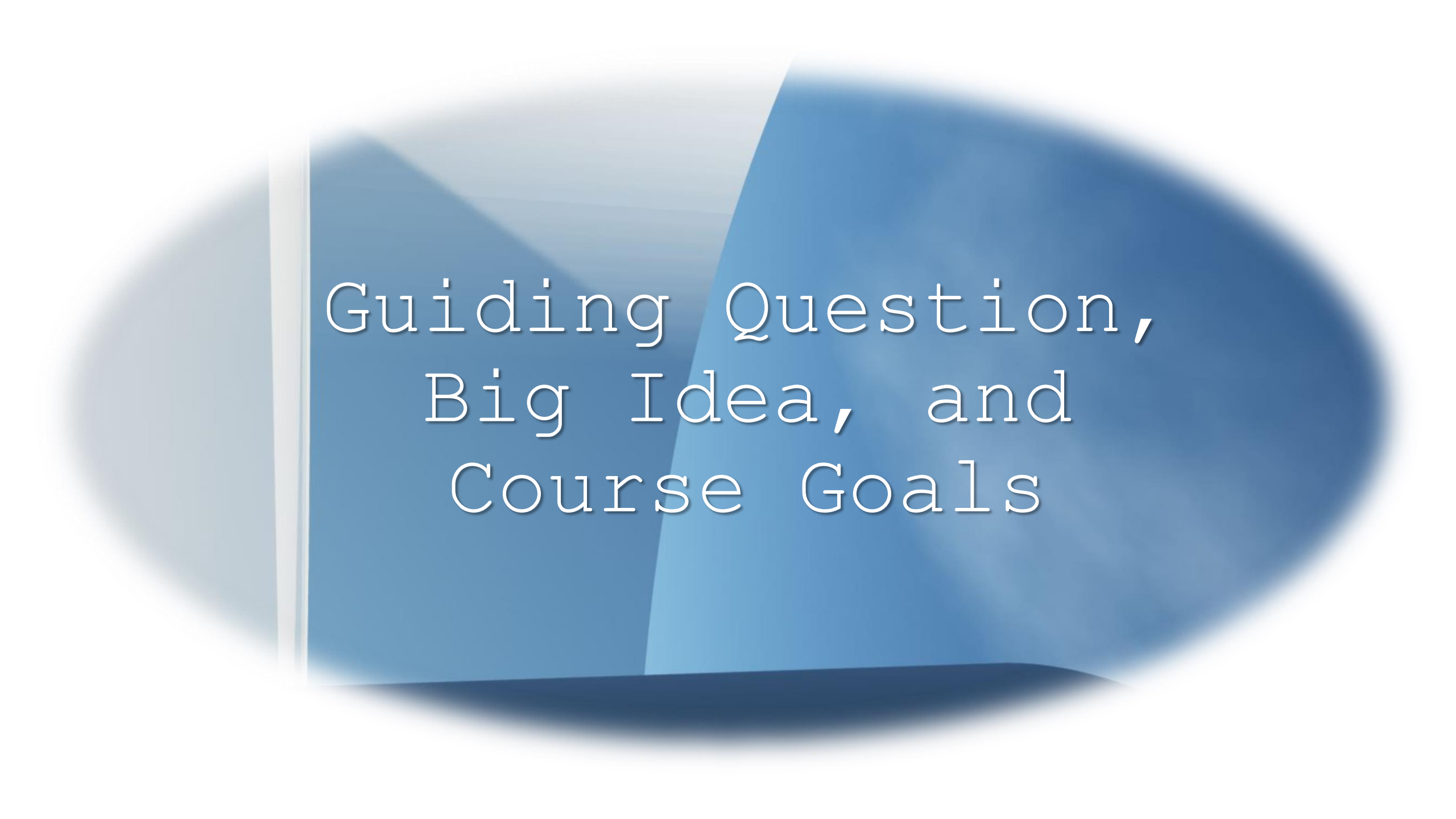
## Religion:

- A Structured System of Beliefs that Includes Organized Worship.

## Sect:

- A Subset of a Religion with Similar but Distinctive Beliefs which are in error.





# Guiding Question, Big Idea, and Course Goals

# Overview: Big Idea & Guiding Question

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## Guiding Question:

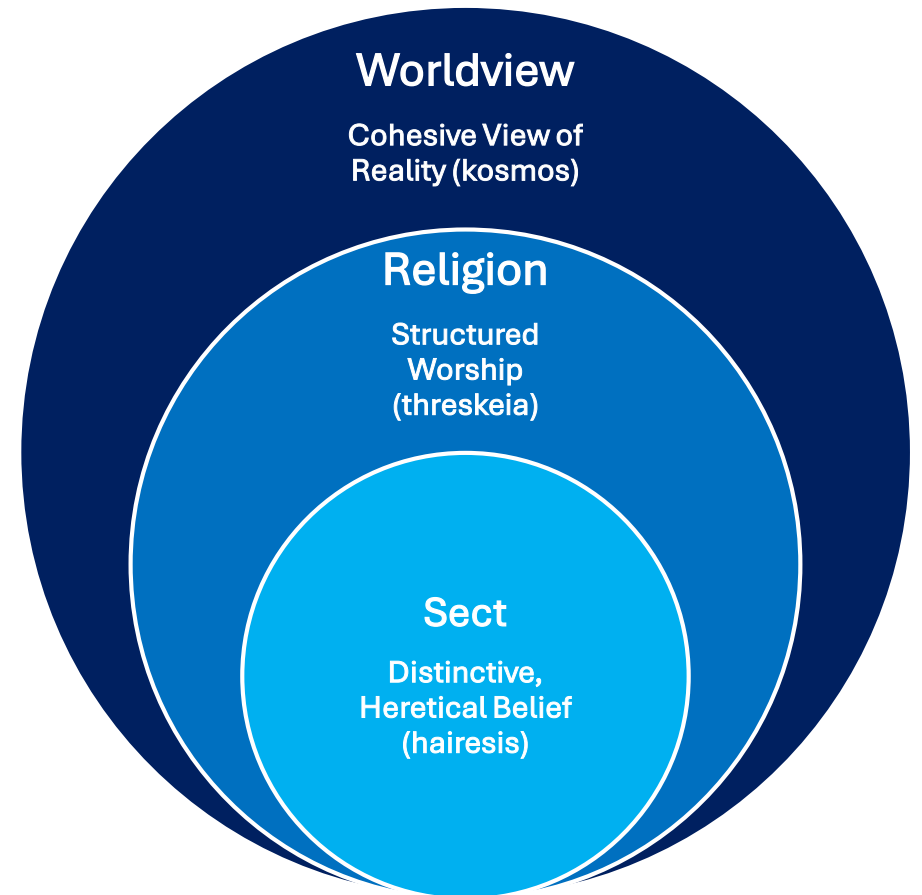
- What do the various worldviews in existence today believe? How does the Christian discern what these worldviews worship?

## Big Idea:

- Christians should seek to understand the heart state of other worshippers so they may show the truth of Christ to them and love them rightly.

## Primary Scripture:

- John 4:21-26,  
“The Father is Seeking True Worshippers”



# Catholic Doctrine: Sacraments

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Catholicism recognizes seven sacraments, each serving as a means of grace (in practice, however, actually “means of salvation” that make people more fit to receive justification from God) and play a vital role in the spiritual life of believers. Supervised/performed only by the priests of the church.

- **Baptism:** Initiates a person into the Christian faith and cleanses original sin. Imparts the Holy Spirit, incorporates the individual into the Church, and marks them as a child of God.
- **Confirmation:** Strengthens and deepens the grace received at Baptism. Seals the believer with the Holy Spirit, empowering them to live out their faith actively and publicly.
- **Eucharist:** Celebrates the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Provides spiritual nourishment, unites the faithful with Christ and the community, and forgives venial sins.
- **Penance (reconciliation):** Offers forgiveness for sins committed after Baptism. Restores the sinner's relationship with God, provides grace to resist sin, and reconciles the individual with the Church.



# Catholic Doctrine: Sacraments (cont.)

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- **Anointing of the Sick (“last rites”)**: Provides healing and comfort to those who are seriously ill or near death. Imparts grace to face suffering, forgives sins, and may result in physical healing if it is God’s will.
- **Holy Orders**: Consecrates individuals to serve the Church as deacons, priests, or bishops. Confers the grace and authority to perform sacraments and lead the Christian community.
- **Matrimony**: Unites a man and woman in a lifelong covenant of love. Bestows grace to strengthen the marital bond and to raise children in the faith.

Catholics teach that these means of grace impart grace *whether or not there is subjective faith* on the part of the minister or the recipient.





# Catholic Doctrine: Baptism

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- Baptism is defined as *a sacrament of initiation* that signifies the beginning of a person's journey in the Christian faith. Its primary purposes include:
  - *Cleansing from Original Sin:* Baptism removes the guilt of original sin, which all humans inherit from Adam and Eve.
  - *Incorporation into the Church:* Through baptism, individuals are welcomed into the Christian community, becoming members of the Body of Christ.
  - *New Birth:* Baptism is often referred to as being "born again" (John 3:5), signifying a spiritual rebirth and the beginning of a new life in Christ.



# Catholic Doctrine: Baptism (cont.)

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- The Catholic rite of baptism typically includes several key elements:
  - ***Water:*** Water is the essential element of baptism, symbolizing purification and new life. The person being baptized is either immersed in water or water is poured over their head.
  - ***Form and Matter:*** The sacrament requires the use of water (matter) and the Trinitarian formula ("I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit") as the essential words (form).
  - ***Anointing and Clothing:*** After baptism, the newly baptized may be anointed with chrism (holy oil) and given a white garment, symbolizing purity and the new life in Christ.
- The Catholic Church practices infant baptism, believing that even infants should receive the sacrament to cleanse them from original sin and initiate them into the faith. ***“Faith, as it is not the effective cause of justification... need not be present. The faith which infants lack is... replaced by the faith of the Church.”*** The Church also teaches that parents and godparents play a crucial role in raising the child in the faith, ensuring that they grow in their understanding of God and the Church.





# Catholic Doctrine: Baptism (cont.)

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- Catholic teaching *emphasizes the necessity of baptism for salvation*, based on Jesus' words in John 3:5. However, the Church also acknowledges that God's mercy extends beyond the sacraments.
  - The concept of *"baptism of desire"* (the intention to be baptized) and *"baptism of blood"* (martyrdom for the faith) are recognized as possible means of salvation for those who have not received the sacrament.
- Baptism is not just a one-time event; it *is the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith*. The Church teaches that the baptized are called to live out their baptismal promises by following Christ, participating in the sacraments, and engaging in the life of the Church.



# Catholic Doctrine: Communion (Eucharist)

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- The *Eucharist* is defined as the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ in the elements of bread and wine. Catholics believe that during the Mass, the *bread and wine become the actual Body and Blood of Christ* through the process known as *transubstantiation*.
  - In *transubstantiation*, during the consecration at Mass, the substance of the bread and wine *changes into the substance of Christ's Body and Blood*, while the appearances (or "*accidents*") of bread and wine remain. This belief underscores the *real and substantial presence of Christ* in the Eucharist.
- The Eucharist is considered the source and summit of Christian life. It is *through the Eucharist that Catholics receive spiritual nourishment and grace*. The Church teaches that participating in the Eucharist strengthens the faithful's relationship with Christ and the community.



# Catholic Doctrine: Communion (cont.)

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- The celebration of *the Mass is the central act of Catholic worship*, where the Eucharist is celebrated. The Mass includes the *Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist*, culminating in the reception of *Communion*. The Mass is seen as a representation of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, *making it present* to the faithful.
- To receive Communion, Catholics *must be in a state of grace*, meaning they *should not be conscious of any mortal sin*. The Church encourages regular participation in the sacrament of *Reconciliation (confession)* to prepare for receiving the Eucharist.
- Catholics believe that the Eucharist is not only a meal but also *a sacrificial offering*. The Mass is seen as a participation in *the one eternal sacrifice of Christ*, offered for the salvation of humanity. This understanding emphasizes the sacrificial nature of the Eucharist.



# Catholic Doctrine: Communion (cont.)

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- Catholic theologian Ludwig Ott wrote:
  - “In the Sacrifice of the Mass and in the Sacrifice of the Cross the Sacrificial Gift and the Primary Sacrificing Priest are identical; only the nature and the mode of the offering are different... according to the Thomistic view, *in every Mass, Christ also performs an actual immediate sacrificial activity*, which, however, must not be conceived as a totality of many successive acts, but as *one single uninterrupted sacrificial act of the Transfigured Christ*. The purpose of this Sacrifice is the same in Sacrifice of the Mass as in the Sacrifice of the Cross; primarily the glorification of God, *secondarily atonement*, thanksgiving and appeal”





# Catholic Doctrine: At death

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In Catholicism, there are several theological concepts that address the states of a person at the time of death, particularly concerning their moral and spiritual condition. Here are the primary states:

- **State of Grace:** A person who dies in a state of grace is free from mortal sin and is in a loving relationship with God.
  - *Outcome:* Such individuals are believed to go directly to Heaven or may need purification in Purgatory before entering Heaven.
- **State of Mortal Sin:** A person who dies in a state of mortal sin has willingly committed a grave sin without repentance.
  - *Outcome:* The Catholic Church teaches that these individuals are separated from God and face eternal damnation in Hell unless there was an opportunity for repentance before death.
- **State of Venial Sin:** A person may die with venial sins, which are less serious offenses that do not sever one's relationship with God.
  - *Outcome:* Those who die with only venial sins usually undergo purification in Purgatory before entering Heaven.



# Catholic Doctrine: At death (cont.)

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- **State of Ignorance:** This refers to individuals who may not have had the opportunity to know God or His laws, such as those who lived in cultures without access to the Gospel.
  - Outcome: The Church holds that God's mercy may apply, and these individuals may also enter Heaven, depending on their openness to grace.
- **State of Perfect Contrition:** Someone who dies with perfect contrition (sorrow for sins due to love for God) may receive God's mercy if they had no opportunity for confession.
  - Outcome: They may be forgiven and enter Heaven, even without sacramental confession.
- **State of Despair:** A person who has lost hope in God's mercy and forgiveness may die in despair.
  - Outcome: Such a state could lead to eternal separation from God, as despair denies the hope of salvation.

Each of these states emphasizes the importance of one's spiritual life and relationship with God at the time of death, reflecting Catholic teachings on sin, grace, and the afterlife.



# Catholic Doctrine: Purgatory

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- *Purgatory* is understood as a temporary state of purification for souls who have died in a state of grace but still need to be purified from the effects of sin before entering heaven. It is not a place of punishment in the same way as hell, but rather a process of cleansing and preparation for the beatific vision of God.
- Catholic teaching draws on various scriptural passages that suggest a process of purification after death. Key references include:
  - **2 Maccabees 12:46:** This passage suggests that it is good and wholesome to pray for the dead, indicating a belief in a state where souls can benefit from the prayers of the living.
  - **1 Corinthians 3:15:** This verse speaks of a person being saved, but only as through fire, which is interpreted as a metaphor for the purification process.



# Catholic Doctrine: Purgatory (cont.)

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- Purgatory is characterized by the following beliefs:
  - ***Purification:*** Souls in purgatory undergo purification to remove any remaining attachment to sin and to achieve the holiness necessary to enter heaven.
  - ***Temporal Punishment:*** While the guilt of sin may be forgiven, there may still be a need to atone for the temporal consequences of sin. Purgatory serves as a means to address this.
  - ***State of Hope:*** Souls in purgatory are assured of their eventual entrance into heaven, which distinguishes this state from hell, where there is no hope of salvation.
- Catholics believe that the living can assist the souls in purgatory through ***prayer, Masses, and acts of charity***. This practice reflects the belief in the communion of saints, where the faithful on earth can intercede for those undergoing purification. The offering of Masses for the deceased is particularly emphasized as a powerful means of helping souls in purgatory.



# Catholic Doctrine: Praying to the Saints

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- Catholics believe in the *communion of saints*, which refers to the spiritual union of all members of the Church—those on earth, in purgatory, and in heaven. This belief emphasizes that the saints, who are in heaven, remain connected to the faithful on earth and can intercede on their behalf.
- Catholics teach that the *saints can intercede for the faithful*. This means that believers can ask saints to pray to God on their behalf. The saints are seen as powerful intercessors due to their closeness to God and their exemplary lives of faith. This practice is based on the understanding that, just as people on earth can pray for one another, so too can the saints in heaven pray for those still living.
- Catholics distinguish between *veneration* (honoring) and *worship*. Praying to saints is an act of veneration, not worship, which is due to God alone. The saints are honored for their holiness and their role in the Church, but worship is reserved for the Holy Trinity. This distinction is crucial in understanding the Catholic approach to the saints.
- The Catholic Church encourages the faithful to *develop a relationship with the saints through prayer*. This can include asking for their intercession in times of need, seeking their guidance, and learning from their examples of faith and virtue.





# Catholic Doctrine: Worship of Mary

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- Mary, the Mother of Jesus, holds a special place in Catholic devotion. She is often referred to as the *Queen of Saints* and is seen as a powerful intercessor. Catholics believe that asking for Mary's intercession can be particularly effective, given her unique relationship with Christ.
- Catholics practice *veneration* (honor and respect) of Mary, but claim this is distinct from worship, which is due to God alone. The Church teaches that while Mary is highly honored as the Mother of God, she is not divine and should not be worshiped. Worship is reserved for the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- Mary is revered in Catholicism for her unique role in salvation history. She is considered the *Theotokos*, or "God-bearer," because she gave birth to Jesus Christ, who is both fully God and fully human. This title emphasizes her significance in the Incarnation and her special relationship with Christ.





# Catholic Doctrine: Worship of Mary (cont.)

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- Catholics believe that Mary serves as a powerful *intercessor and advocate* for the faithful. They often pray to her, asking for her intercession with her Son, Jesus. This practice is based on the belief that, as a loving mother, Mary cares for her children and can present their needs to God.
- The Catholic Church encourages various *Marian devotions*, such as the *Rosary, the Hail Mary, and the Angelus*. These prayers and practices are meant to deepen the faithful's relationship with Mary and, through her, with Christ. They reflect a desire to honor her and seek her guidance in living a Christian life.
- The Catholic Church has defined several *dogmas* regarding Mary, including:
  - *Immaculate Conception*: The belief that *Mary* was conceived without original sin (and the church teaches that “*in consequence of a Special Privilege of Grace from God, Mary was free from every personal sin during her whole life*”)
  - *Perpetual Virginity*: The belief that Mary remained a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Jesus.
  - *Assumption*: The belief that Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life.





# Worldview Analysis & Heart Discernment

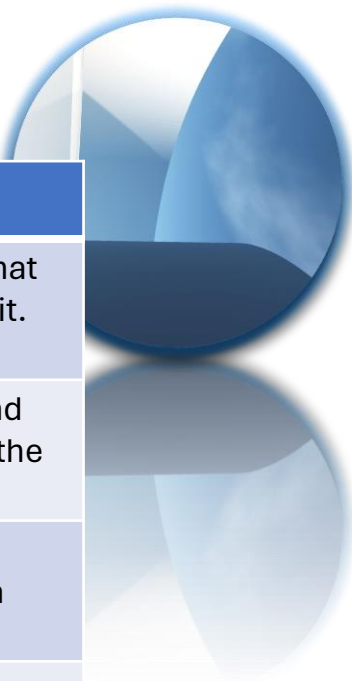
# Worldview Questions: God, Man, & Identity

## Question 1:

What does **Catholicism** believe about the nature of God?

- **Answers: Who or What is God?**

Aspect	Catholic Perspective
The Trinity	Catholics believe in the Holy Trinity, which is the central mystery of the Christian faith. This doctrine states that there is one God in three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God, sharing the same divine essence, yet they are distinct in their relations and roles.
Omnipotent	God is all-powerful. This attribute signifies that God has the ability to do anything that is logically possible and consistent with His nature. His omnipotence is evident in the act of creation and His ongoing governance of the universe.
Omniscient	God possesses complete and perfect knowledge of all things, including the past, present, and future. This means that God knows every thought, action, and intention of every person, which underscores His role as a just judge.
Omnibenevolent	God is all-good and loving. This attribute emphasizes that God's nature is fundamentally good, and His actions are motivated by love. Catholics believe that God's love is unconditional and extends to all of creation.
Immanence and Transcendence	Catholics understand God as both immanent and transcendent. God is immanent, meaning He is present and active within His creation, sustaining and guiding it. At the same time, He is transcendent, existing beyond and independent from the created world, which highlights His holiness and majesty.
Justice and Mercy	God is both just and merciful. His justice ensures that good is rewarded and evil is punished, while His mercy offers forgiveness and compassion to those who repent. This duality reflects the balance of God's nature, emphasizing His desire for humanity's salvation.



# Worldview Questions: God, Man, & Identity

## Question 2:

What does **Catholicism** believe about the nature of Man?

- **Answers:** Who am I?

Aspect	Catholic Perspective
Created by God	Man is created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27). This foundational belief emphasizes the inherent dignity and worth of every human being. It suggests that humans possess rationality, free will, and the capacity for love and relationship, reflecting God's nature.
Original Sin	Original sin entered the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve. This sin has affected all of humanity, leading to a fallen state where humans are inclined toward sin. However, this does not erase the divine image in man; rather, it complicates the relationship between humanity and God.
Body-Soul Unity	Humans are a unity of body and soul. The soul is immortal and is the spiritual aspect of a person, while the body is the physical manifestation. This duality is significant in understanding human dignity, the sanctity of life, and the resurrection of the body.
Moral Responsibility	Humans have moral responsibility due to their free will. This means that individuals are accountable for their actions and choices, which should align with God's commandments and the teachings of the Church. The moral law is seen as a guide for living a life that reflects God's will.



# Worldview Questions: God, Man, & Identity

## Question 3:

What does **Catholicism** believe about the relationship between Man and God?

- **Answers:** Who am I (“We”) in relation to God?

Aspect	Catholic Perspective
Creation and Divine Love	God created man out of love and for love. This foundational belief emphasizes that humans are not merely products of chance but are intentionally designed by God to be in a relationship with Him. The act of creation reflects God's desire for communion with humanity.
Original Sin and Separation	The relationship between man and God was fundamentally altered by original sin, which introduced a separation between humanity and God. This sin, stemming from the disobedience of Adam and Eve, resulted in a fallen state where humans are inclined to sin and experience spiritual alienation from God. Despite this separation, God's love remains constant.
Redemption Through Christ	Jesus Christ is the bridge that restores the relationship between man and God. Through His incarnation, death, and resurrection, Christ offers redemption and reconciliation. This belief underscores the importance of faith in Jesus as the means to restore the broken relationship and achieve salvation.
Grace and Sacraments	Grace is essential for maintaining a relationship with God. Grace is understood as a free gift from God that empowers individuals to live according to His will. The sacraments, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation, are seen as vital means through which grace is received, fostering a deeper communion with God.
The Call to Holiness	Humans are called to holiness and a life of virtue as a response to God's love. This call involves living in accordance with God's commandments and striving for moral integrity. The ultimate goal is to achieve eternal communion with God in heaven.





# Worldview Questions: God, Man, & Identity

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## Question 4:

What does **Catholicism** believe is the collective identity of its adherents?

- **Answers:** Who are “We”? Who “We” in relation to God?

Aspect	Catholic Perspective
Apostolic Tradition	The Catholic Church believes it is the one, holy, catholic (universal), and apostolic Church founded by Christ. This belief is rooted in scriptures and the teachings of the early Church Fathers.
Salvation Exclusivity	According to the Church, salvation is found uniquely in Christ and traditionally emphasizes that the fullness of the means of salvation resides within the Catholic Church. This is grounded in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium), which states that the Church is necessary for salvation.



# Worldview Questions: Problem, Solution & Value

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## Question 5:

What does **Catholicism** believe is wrong with the world?

- **Answers:** What is the problem?

Aspect	Catholic Perspective
Original Sin	Catholic teaching holds that humanity is affected by original sin, a condition resulting from the first disobedience of Adam and Eve. This sin introduced a separation from God, fundamentally altering human nature and leading to a propensity towards sin in all individuals.
Individual Accountability	Beyond original sin, the Church teaches that every person commits personal sins, which damage their relationship with God and can harm others. These sins can be categorized into mortal (serious) and venial (less serious) sins.
Structures of Sin	The Church teaches that societal issues like poverty, injustice, racism, and war are often rooted in "structures of sin," which arise from collective human decisions and behavior. These structures perpetuate inequality and suffering within communities.



# Worldview Questions: Problem, Solution & Value

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## Question 6:

What does **Catholicism** believe is the solution to what's wrong?

- **Answers:** What is the solution?

Aspect	Catholic Perspective
Grace and Salvation	Through Christ, believers receive grace, which empowers them to overcome sin and live a life in accordance with God's will. This begins with faith in Christ and often involves the sacramental life of the Church.
Sacramental Life	<p>The Church emphasizes the importance of the sacraments as channels of grace. Key sacraments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Baptism</i>: Cleanses original sin and initiates individuals into the Church.</li><li>• <i>Eucharist</i>: Nourishes spiritual life and strengthens community ties.</li><li>• <i>Confession</i> (Reconciliation): Provides forgiveness for personal sins, allowing for spiritual healing and renewal.</li></ul>
Natural Law / Catechism and Ethical Guidelines	<p>The Church advocates for moral living based on natural law, which emphasizes inherent truths accessible to all people through reason. Following these principles leads to a just and ethical society.</p> <p>The Church also provides teachings through the Catechism, offering guidance on moral behavior, social justice, and living in accordance with Christian values.</p>



# Worldview Questions: Problem, Solution & Value

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## Question 7:

What does **Catholicism** teach is the way to live in the world based on ‘the time’?

- **Answers:** How should I (“We”) live today, given ‘the time’? (**kairos\***)?

Aspect	Catholic Perspective
Call to Serve	Catholicism teaches that one of the responsive actions to the world’s problems is a commitment to social justice. The Church encourages adherents to engage in acts of charity, protect the dignity of life, and advocate for the marginalized.
Building Community	Fostering strong, supportive communities is viewed as essential to addressing societal issues. This includes serving local and global communities through various ministries and outreach programs.
Prayer and Personal Reflection	Developing a personal relationship with God through prayer is seen as vital for transformation. The Church encourages regular prayer, reflection, and participation in the liturgy.
Compassion and Forgiveness	The teachings of Christ promote love, compassion, and forgiveness. These virtues are essential for healing personal and communal relationships.



# Worldview Questions: Problem, Solution & Value

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## Question 8:

What does **Catholicism** teach its adherents to value most in life?

- **Answers:** What shall I (“We”) desire, pursue, and love?

Aspect	Catholic Perspective
Love of God	Prioritizing a deep, personal relationship with God as the foundation of faith.
Love of Neighbor	Emphasizing care, respect, and service to all, following Jesus’ teachings.
Pursuit of Holiness	Striving for a life of virtue and integrity, seeking personal and communal growth.
Truth and Moral Values	Commitment to truth as revealed in Scripture and the Church, guiding moral choices.
Hope	Confidence in God’s promises and His divine plan for salvation and eternal life.





# Worldview Questions: Direction, End & Heart

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## Question 9:

What does **Catholicism** believe is the end purpose of Man?

- **Answers:** Where am I (“We”) going (telos\*)?

Aspect	Catholic Perspective
To Know, Love, and Serve God	Catholics believe that the fundamental purpose of human life is to know, love, and serve God throughout one’s life.
To Attain Eternal Happiness	The ultimate goal for humans is to attain eternal happiness with God in Heaven.
Participation in God’s Divine Life	Catholics teach that through God’s grace, individuals can participate in divine life, which is made possible through the sacraments, prayer, and the Church.
To Be Stewards of Creation	Man is called to be a steward of God’s creation, caring for the Earth and its inhabitants.
To Live in Community	The Catholic Church serves as the primary community through which people grow in their faith and support each other.



# Worldview Questions: Direction, End & Heart

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## Question 10:

What does **Catholicism** believe is the end purpose of the Existence?

- **Answers:** Where is the whole world going?

Aspect	Catholic Perspective
Second Coming of Christ	Catholic teaching holds that Jesus will return at the end of time (known as the Parousia) to judge the living and the dead. This event is a cornerstone of faith, and believers are encouraged to live in readiness for this return.
Judgment of Souls	At the final judgment, all individuals will be held accountable for their actions. Those who have lived in accordance with God's will will be rewarded, while those who reject divine grace will face separation from God (hell).
New Heaven and New Earth	The Church teaches that after the final judgment, God will restore creation, establishing a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1). This new creation will be free from sin, suffering, and death.



# Worldview Questions: Direction, End & Heart

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## Question 11:

What does **Catholicism** reveal about the heart state of its adherents?

- **Answers:** Where is their heart? How do I as a believer discern their heart?

Aspect	Catholic Perspective
Faith and works are necessary for salvation	Post-Baptism, Catholics see the need for continual conversion and growth in holiness, which involves both accepting God's grace and performing good works. This grace is primarily received through the sacraments, especially Baptism and the Eucharist, and is also available through prayer, good deeds, and acts of charity.
Sacramental approach	Participation in the sacraments, prayer, and acts of charity are emphasized as ways to contribute to the Kingdom of God.
Moral responsibility	There is an emphasis on ethical living, social justice, and care for creation, as these actions reflect the values of God's Kingdom.



# Worldview Questions: Christ, Gospel & Witness

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## Question 12:

What does **Catholicism** believe about the nature, work, and person of Christ?

- **Answers:** What do they *think* about Christ? What do they *do* with Him?

Aspect	Catholic Perspective
Justification	Something that changes us internally and makes us more holy within. Baptism is the means by which justification is first obtained, and then faith (faith that accepts the content of the teaching of the Catholic church) is necessary if an adult is to receive justification or to continue in the state of justification. Not based on God's grace alone, but partially on our merit.
Imputation vs Infusion	Justification is not based on imputed righteousness but on infused righteousness – righteousness that God actually puts into us and that changes us internally and in terms of our actual moral character. Then he gives us varying measures of justification according to the measure of righteousness that has been infused or placed within us.



# Worldview Questions: Christ, Gospel & Witness

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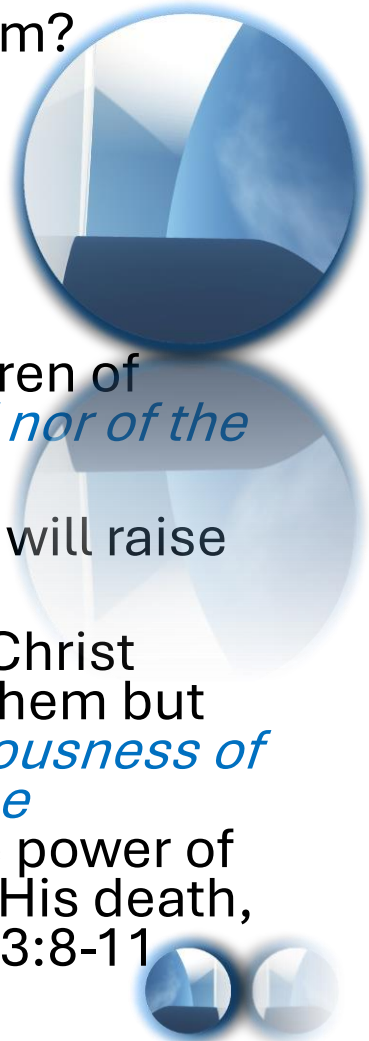
## Question 13:

What does **Catholicism** reveal about how Christians can/should evangelize them?

- **Answers:** How do I as a believer share the Gospel and teach them Christ?
- This is “Speaking the truth in love”.

## Salvation is of the Lord (Psalm 3:8)

- “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, *who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*” – John 1:12
- “No one can come to Me *unless the Father who sent Me draws him*; and I will raise him up on the last day.” – John 6:44
- “I count all things to be loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, *not having a righteousness of my own which is from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God upon faith*, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” – Philippians 3:8-11





# Worldview Questions: Christ, Gospel & Witness

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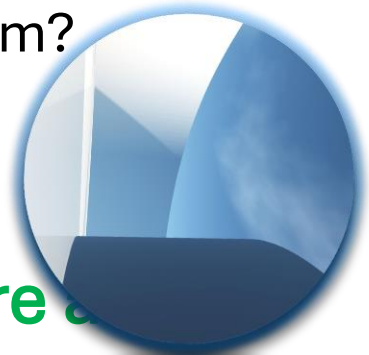
## Question 13 (cont.):

What does **Catholicism** reveal about how Christians can/should evangelize them?

- **Answers:** How do I as a believer share the Gospel and teach them Christ?
- This is “Speaking the truth in love”.

**Jesus’ sinless life, atoning death, and validated resurrection are what that is needed for our salvation. We have NO merit in ourself.**

- “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; *not of works*, so that no one may boast.” – Eph 2:8-9
- “But when the kindness and affection of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, *not by works which we did in righteousness*, but according to His mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that having been justified by His grace, we would become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” – Titus 3:4-7



# Worldview Questions: Christ, Gospel & Witness

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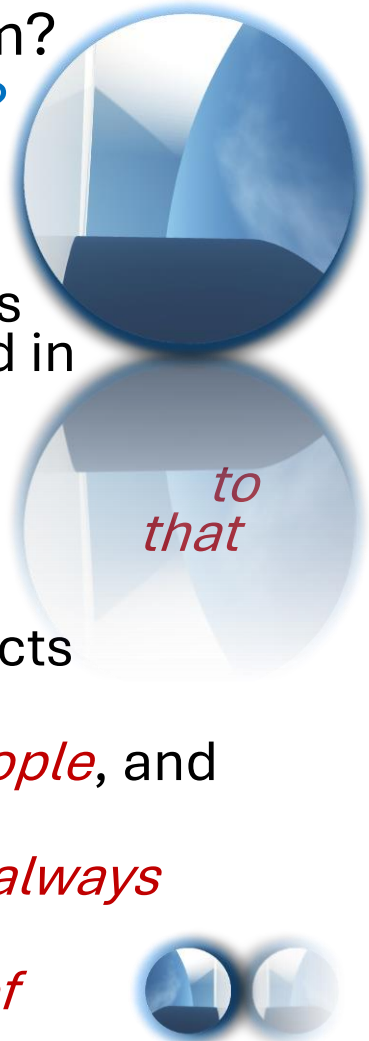
## Question 14:

What does **Catholicism** reveal about how Christians can minister to them?

- **Answers:** How do I as a believer show them Christ and reflect Him rightly?
- This is “Loving my neighbor as myself”

There are numerous Scriptural principles that guide how we as Christians can interact with Catholics just as we should with everyone who doesn't know Jesus as Savior and Lord (Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone as declared in Scripture Alone to the Glory of God Alone).

- **1 Peter 3:15** – “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, *always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope is in you*, yet with gentleness and fear,”
- **Ephesians 4:15** – “But *speaking the truth in love*, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is Christ.”
- **Galatians 6:10** – “So then, *while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people*, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
- **1 Thessalonians 5:15** – “See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but *always seek after that which is good* for one another and *for all men*.”
- **Colossians 3:12** – “So, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, *put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience*.”



# Suggested Resources for Further Study

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**Are We Together? *A Protestant Analyzes Roman Catholicism* (Reformation Trust)**

<https://www.amazon.com/Field-Guide-False-Teaching/dp/1642892688/>

**Systematic Theology *by Wayne Grudem* (Zondervan)**

<https://www.amazon.com/Systematic-Theology-Second-Introduction-Biblical/dp/0310517974/>

