

MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Rome teaches Mary's Immaculate Conception, that is, that she, from the first instance of her conception was preserved free from original sin (Documents of Vatican II, Lumen Gentium, VIII; par. 56. This teaching has been official Roman Catholic Doctrine since the papal bull "Ineffabilis Deus" in 1854.) This is not taught by Scripture which assumes that Mary was a sinner needing a Saviour every bit as much as we. More disturbing is Rome's teaching that Mary shares in Christ's redemptive work. Vatican II declared:

In an utterly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Saviour's work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace (ibid., p. 91).

And,

Far taken up to heaven, she did not lay aside this saving role, but by her manifold acts of intercession continues to win for us gifts of eternal salvation (ibid.).

And again,

By her maternal charity, Mary cares for the brethren of her Son who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led to their happy fatherland. Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked by the Church under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix Adjutrix, and Mediatrix (ibid.).

These are the teachings that we cannot accept, for they ascribe to Mary, at least in part, the role of Mediator and Advocate, roles which belong to Jesus Christ *alone*. Scripture is clear in declaring, "*For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all,*" (1 Timothy 2:5-6). St. John Himself, to whom Mary was committed after our Lord's death, writes, "*But if anyone sins we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for the sins of the whole world,*" (1 John 2:1-2). Of His name the apostle Peter solemnly confessed: "*There is no other name under heaven, given among men, by which we must be saved,*" (Acts 4:12). Nothing in all of Scripture even hints at Mary sharing Christ's saving work.

Can we honour Mary as role model? Yes! Can we thank God that by His grace (not because of her worthiness!) she became the "mother of God?" Yes! But we can never ascribe to her what the Scriptures do not, and especially can we never ascribe to her anything that contradicts the Gospel of Jesus Christ and robs Him of His glory. Mary, like you and I, was a sinner who needed the Saviour to come into the world to die for our sins, and be raised for our justification. All glory be to Jesus Christ!