

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF JESUS

### Was the Catholic Church founded by Jesus?

Are you a Christian, a Catholic? How do you know that you belong to the Church of Jesus Christ? Protestants claim that Jesus did not establish a Church and that no Church saves. Only faith in Jesus Christ saves...

I have little news for them. I will prove the opposite to them by using the Word of God. As a Catholic Christian I believe in the person of Jesus, in his Word, activities and actions.

Read with me the card of Saint Paul to the Ephesians speaking of the Holy Spirit: " So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ... glory to him (God) in THE CHURCH AND CHRIST JESUS for all generations for ever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3: 17-21) The Church and Jesus are one. They are inseparable. All glory given to God is in Church and in Christ.

However, was that Church founded by Jesus? How to know it, how to check it. Did Jesus establish several Churches? What does the Word of God tell us? St. Mark gives us the answer: "Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He APPOINTED (ESTABLISH) TWELVE that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach." (Mark 3, 13-14). Jesus makes a decision. He calls those he wanted. He chooses them. He wants a community, a congregation, around him. What is he doing then? He made Twelve. Why Twelve? Because this group represents the People of God, the Twelve tribes of Israel. This is how Jesus establishes the FOUNDATIONS OF HIS CHURCH.

Now, how to know that Church, founded by Jesus is the Catholic Church? In the New Testament, the word "Catholic" is not mentioned. To know it, I refer to the Gospel of Matthew: "And I say to you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build MY CHURCH; and the power of Death will not prevail over her." (Matthew 16, 18). Jesus does not speak of many Churches. He speaks of ONE Church, of his only Church representing the People of God (his Church has a universal destiny, that is why she is called Catholic), and she will not die, will not disappear until the end of time. "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28, 18-20). The only Church that has survived centuries to this day is Catholic Church. There are no others.

Another characteristic of the Church is that Jesus entrusts to Peter, leader of the apostles, the primacy of his Church, entrusting him with the keys of the Kingdom of God. “I will give you the KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16: 19) Peter receives authority over the quorum of the Twelve Apostles. He binds and unties on the earth in the name of Jesus. Protestants do not recognize the authority of Peter (because for them the only Stone is Christ) and even less the authority of Pope. On the other hand, all Protestant Churches demand this authority.

On which biblical text do the Protestant Churches base their authority? On the illumination of their founder who received a direct revelation of Christ Jesus. St. John refutes them royally: "It is not you who have chosen me, it is I who have chosen you and established, so that you go, you bear fruit, and your fruit remains." (John 15: 16) "Just as you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world." (John 17: 18)

In the Catholic Church, no one improvises himself as pastor, deacon, priest, bishop or pope. Among the Protestants, someone who is baptized, believing, knowing the Word of God, can found his own Church. The first to do it was Martin Luther. On October 31, 1517, he published his 95 theses against indulgences and purgatory which he addressed to the new archbishop of Mainz. He denounces certain practices of the Catholic Church, such as sale of indulgences. He was excommunicated by Pope Leon X. In 1520, Luther burned the bull by which the Pope ordered him to retract. Luther continues to assert that Bible is only authority and that it passes before the authority of Pope. In 1525, no longer an Augustinian monk since 1521, married a former nun "Catherine de Bora" from whom he had six children.

If no one has the right to become a pastor, what does the Word of God tell us about it? Luke gives us the answer. “For I tell you I will not drink

again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.” In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. I say to you, I will not drink henceforth of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God is come.” (Luke 22: 18-20) On his last meal, Jesus gives an ORDER to his apostles. He ordains them, consecrates them, mandates them to consecrate bread and wine in his body and blood. This is what St. Paul reminds the Christians of Corinth: “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not communion with the BLOOD OF CHRIST? The bread that we break, is it not communion with the BODY OF CHRIST?” (1Corinth 10, 16) The Eucharist is not a memory, a symbol of the death and resurrection of Jesus, but the REAL PRESENCE of Jesus in his body and blood of being Resurrected in the midst of his people.

Through this catechesis, I hope to have answered some of your questions. See you next time on another theme!

**Marius Morin**