



HANDY SCRIPTURE REFERENCE FOR CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS

This compilation is intended both for Catholic apologists and for non-Catholic Christians – as a handy reference for those with a developed understanding of the Catholic faith, and a starting point for those striving to understand the Catholic faith. It most definitely is not intended as a compendium of discrete proof texts. “Proof texting” is no substitute for prayerful, deliberate study, and individual verses separated from their contexts have been used to support any number of erroneous (and even wacky) propositions. Furthermore, what G.K. Chesterton wrote about the sacrament of Penance is true of many of the other distinctively Catholic doctrines:

[I]t is undoubtedly present as an idea in the very earliest times; there are disputes about the proportion of that presence, and there need be no dispute at all that it grew more elaborate, more systematic, and more subtle with the process of experience. What is called Development is the unfolding of all the consequences and applications of an idea; but of something that is there, not of something that is not there” (*Upon This Rock* (1926)).

This compilation is based in part on a list originally assembled by Christopher Wong (<http://world.std.com/~cwong/>). Unless otherwise noted, scripture quotations are taken from the Revised Standard Version. The verses are listed under the following 15 general headings:

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Sola Fide?

Faith without works?

“What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him?...So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead....You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone....For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so faith apart from works is dead.” (Jas 2:14-26)

Even Christians must avoid sin

“For if we sin deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful prospect of judgment, and a fury of fire which will consume the adversaries.” (Heb 10:26-27)

“No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. . . . No one born of God commits sin; for God's nature abides in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God. By this it may be seen who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not do right is not of God, nor he who does not love his brother.” (1 Jn 3:6, 9-10)

Not enough merely to assent: Must do God's will

“Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?” (Lk 6:46)

“Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” (Mt 7:21)

“And behold, one came up to him, saying, ‘Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?’ And he said to him, ‘Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.’... The young man said to him, ‘All these I have observed; what do I still lack?’ Jesus said to him, ‘If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’” (Mt 19:16-21)

“You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe -- and shudder.” (Jas 2:19)

“And by this we may be sure that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He who says ‘I know him’ but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him;” (1 Jn 2:3-4)

Need for self-discipline

“Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air; but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.” (1 Cor 9:25-27)

Works will be judged

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.” (2 Cor 5:10)

“For he will render to every man according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and

immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are factious and do not obey the truth, but obey wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek....For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.” (Rom 2:6-10, 13)

“Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.” (Rom 3:31)

“Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me’....Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me’....And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Mt 25:32-46)

“Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master’s will, but did not make ready or act according to his will, shall receive a severe beating. But he who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, shall receive a light beating. Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more.” (Lk 12:43-48)

“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, by what they had done.” (Rev 20:12)

“Work out your salvation”

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12)

Salvation & Justification

Must remain in Christ, persevere, or be cut off

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as

a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned.” (Jn 15:4-6)

“For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God’s kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off.” (Rom 11:21-22)

“And you, who once were estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, provided that you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel which you heard” (Col 1:21-22)

Possibility of falling, disqualification

“but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.” (1 Cor 9:27)

“Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest remains, let us fear lest any of you be judged to have failed to reach it.” (Heb 4:1)

Warned to avoid presumption

“Therefore let any one who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.” (1 Cor 10:12)

Souls of wandering Christians are “dead”

My brethren, if any one among you wanders from the truth and some one brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.” (Jas 5:19-20)

Perils of backsliding

“For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they then commit apostasy, since they crucify the Son of God on their own account and hold him up to contempt. For land which has drunk the rain that often falls upon it, and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed; its end is to be burned.” (Heb 6:4-8)

“For if we sin deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful prospect of judgment, and a fury of fire which will consume the adversaries.” (Heb 10:26-27)

“For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overpowered, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.” (2 Pet 2:20-21)

Purified from sins

“[I]f we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 Jn 1:7)

“For whoever lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.” (2 Pet 1:9)

Sin put/taken away

“The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’” (Jn 1:29)

“But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.” (Heb 9:26)

Cleanse/remove sin

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!” (Ps51:1-2)

“[A]s far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.” (Ps 103:12)

Future justification

“For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.” (Rom 2:13)

“For no human being will be justified in his sight by works of the law, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” (Rom 3:20)

Justifications of Abraham

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go.” (Heb 11:8; referring to Gen 12:1-4)

“For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’” (Rom 4:2-3; referring to Gen 15:5-6)

“And he brought [Abraham] outside and said, ‘Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed the LORD; and he reckoned it to him as righteousness.” (Gen 15:5-6)

“Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by works” (Jas 2:21-22; referring to Gen 22:1-18)

Become partakers of the divine nature

“[H]e has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature.” (2 Pet 1:4)

Sola Scriptura?

Not everything is in the Bible

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;” (Jn 20:30)

“But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” (Jn 21:25)

Paul speaks of oral tradition

“So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter.” (2 Thess 2:15)

“and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Tim 2:2)

“I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I have delivered them to you.” (1 Cor 11:2)

“And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.” (1 Thess 2:13)

Scriptures not easy to understand, can be distorted

“So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures.” (2 Pet 3:15-16)

Against personal interpretation of Scripture

“First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” (2 Pet 1:20-21)

Eucharist

“Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’” (Mt 26:26-28; also Mk 14:22,24, Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor 10:24-25)

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” (1 Cor 11:26-29)

Jesus' Eucharistic Discourse

“‘[M]y Father gives you the true bread from heaven...I am the bread of life;...’ The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, ‘I am the bread which came down from heaven.’ ...Jesus answered them, ‘Do not murmur among yourselves....I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.’ The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his

blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever.'... Many of his disciples, when they heard it, said, 'This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?' But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at it, said to them, 'Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of man ascending where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.' ...After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him." (Jn 6:32-68)

"Breaking of bread" in apostolic church

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

Passover lamb foreshadows Christ & Eucharist

Sacrificial lamb must be eaten: "Your lamb shall be without blemish.... the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs.... They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.... its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning, anything that remains until the morning you shall burn." (Exodus 12:5-10)

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn 1:29)

"Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed." (1 Cor 5:7)

Christ still reigns as the paschal lamb

"And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders, I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain" (Rev 5:6)

Melchizedek

"And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him a tenth of everything." (Gen 14:18-20)

"The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'" (Ps 110:4)

"Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." (Heb 6:20; see also Heb 7:1-17)

Baptism

And children

"Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'" (Mt 19:14)

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;

and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him.'" (Acts 2:38-39)

Baptism of households implies children

"And when [Lydia] was baptized, with her household, she besought us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.' And she prevailed upon us." (Acts 16:15)

"And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God." (Acts 16:33-34)

"I did baptize also the household of Steph'anas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else." (1 Cor 1:16)

Baptism (New Covenant)/Circumcision (Old) parallels

"In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead." (Col 2:11-12)

"He that is eight days old among you shall be circumcised" (Gen 17:12)

Parallels to those forgiven/healed on the basis of others' faith

"And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'My son, your sins are forgiven.'" (Mk 2:3-5, *emphasis added*; also Mt 9:2-7)

"As he entered Caper'na-um, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, 'Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress.' ... When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, 'Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.... Go; be it done for you as you have believed.' And the servant was healed at that very moment." (Mt 8:5-13)

Necessity and efficacy of baptism

"Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'" (Jn 3:5)

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Rom 6:4)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you;" (Mt 28:19-20)

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved;" (Mk 16:16)

"Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?'"

And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:37-38)

"And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name." (Acts 22:16)

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal 3:27)

"Baptism, which corresponds to [the water of the Flood], now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 3:21)

Confirmation

"Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Sama'ria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit." (Acts 8:14-17)

Sin and Forgiveness

Authority delegated to Apostles

"Jesus said to [the disciples] again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'" (Jn 20:21-23)

"Truly, I say to you [the disciples], whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Mt 18:18)

Mortal/venial sin distinction

"If any one sees his brother committing what is not a mortal sin, he will ask, and God will give him life for those whose sin is not mortal. There is sin which is mortal; I do not say that one is to pray for that. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin which is not mortal." (1 Jn 5:16-17)

"And that servant who knew his master's will, but did not make ready or act according to his will, shall receive a severe beating. But he who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, shall receive a light beating. Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required;" (Lk 12:47-48)

Ministry of reconciliation

"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." (2 Cor 5:18-20)

"Many also of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices." (Acts 19:18)

Anointing, confession, and forgiveness

"Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders [Gk. *presbuteros*] of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. (Jas 5:14-16)

Purgatory

Liberation only after expiation

"As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out till you have paid the very last copper." (Lk 12:58-59; *see also* Matt 5:25-26)

Saved only as through fire

"For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ...If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire." (1 Cor 3:11-15)

Nothing unclean enters Heaven

But nothing unclean shall enter it, nor any one who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Rev 21:27)

Souls in heaven are perfected

"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,...and to the spirits of just men made perfect" (Heb 12:22-23)

God's loving discipline

"It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?...For [our earthly fathers] disciplined us for a short time at their pleasure, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness." (Heb 12:6-11)

Forgiveness in the age to come

"And whoever says a word against the Son of man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come." (Mt 12:32)

Gospel preached to the dead "spirits in prison"

"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly did not obey....For this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead, that though judged in the flesh like men, they might live in the spirit like God." (1 Pet 3:18-19, 4:6)

Atonement for the dead (in Deuterocanon)

"He also took up a collection...and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering. In doing this he acted very well and honorably, taking account of the resurrection. For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been

superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin." (2 Mac 12:43-45)

Paul's prayer for dead Onesiphorus

"May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiph'orus, for he often refreshed me;...may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day" (2 Tim 1:15-18)

Intercession for others' non-mortal sins

"If any one sees his brother committing what is not a mortal sin, he will ask, and God will give him life for those whose sin is not mortal. There is sin which is mortal; I do not say that one is to pray for that. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin which is not mortal." (1 Jn 5:14-17)

Petrine Ministry/Papacy

Peter usually mentioned as first/foremost Apostle

"The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zeb'edee, and John his brother..." (Mt 10:2; see also Mk 3:14-16, Lk 6:14-16)

"[A]nd when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James." (Acts 1:13)

"Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray....Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, and when they wakened they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him." (Lk 9:28-32)

Peter speaks for the Apostles

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus....Then Peter came up and said to him, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?'" (Mt 18:1, 21)

"And he asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Christ.'" (Mk 8:29)

"Peter said, 'Lord, are you telling this parable for us [the disciples] or for all?'" (Lk 12:41)

"Jesus said to the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.'" (Jn 6:67-69)

Pentecost: Peter speaks for Apostles

"But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, 'Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words'....Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' And Peter said to

them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;'" (Acts 2:14-40)

Peter works first healing

"But Peter said, 'I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.' And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong." (Acts 3:6-7)

Baptism of Gentiles revealed to Peter

"Then Peter declared, 'Can any one forbid water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ." (Acts 10:46-48)

Simon the rock

"Jesus looked at him, and said, 'So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas' (which means Peter)."

"And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek: *Petros*; Arimaic: *Kepha*; cf. Gk. *lithos*=small rock], and on this rock [Gk: *petra*; Arimaic: *kepha*] I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it." (Mt 16:18)

Power of the keys (symbol of authority)

Jesus to Peter: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Mt 16:19)

"And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open." (Is 22:22)

"Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades." (Rev 1:17-18)

Simon Peter the shepherd

"When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'" (Jn 21:15-17)

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren." (Lk 22:31-32)

"Brothers" (*adelphoi*) of Jesus

"Brothers" of Jesus are children of the Virgin Mary's "sister"
Jesus' "brothers" James and Joseph are the children of "Mary the wife of Clopas," who is the Virgin Mary's "sister":

"are not [Jesus'] brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?" (Mt 13:55; see also Mk 6:3)

"[S]tanding by the cross of Jesus were his mother [Mary], and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene" (Jn 19:25)

"There were also some women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome." (Mk 15:40)

"Among them was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee." (Matthew 27:56)

Matthew refers to her as "the other Mary." (Mt 27:61, 28:1)

Septuagint and KJV use "brother" to describe kinsmen

Lot, Abraham's nephew (Gen 11:26-28), described as Abraham's "brother" (Gen 14:14)

Laban, Jacob's uncle, calls Jacob his "brother" (Gen 19:15)

Jesus commits Mary to care of John, not to a "brother"

"When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home." (Jn 19:26-27)

"not until" = not up to the point that, ≠ "did...after"

"but [Joseph] knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus." (Mt 1:25)

"And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to [until] the day of her death." (2 Sam 6:23)

"And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phan'u-el, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four." (Lk 2:36)

"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you." (Gn 28:15)

Mary

The Annunciation - Hail, Mary

"And [the angel Gabriel] came to her and said, 'Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!'" (Lk 1:28)

Blessed among women

"Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.' And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.'" (Lk 1:41-48)

Jesus gives Mary to the Church as mother

"When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home." (Jn 19:26-27)

Enoch and Elijah assumed into heaven

"By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was attested as having pleased God." (Heb 11:5, see Gen 5:24)

"And as they still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Eli'jah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." (2 Ki 2:11)

Coronation awaits saints

"Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." (2 Tim 4:8)

"Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love him." (Jas 1:12)

"And when the chief Shepherd is manifested you will obtain the unfading crown of glory." (1 Pet 5:4)

"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Rev 2:10)

Mary's intercession

"On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'" (Jn 2:1-5)

Allusions to Mary at beginning and end of history

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." (Gn 3:15)

"And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; she was with child and she cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery. . . [S]he brought forth a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne" (Rev 12:1-2, 5)

Saints

God of the living: Patriarchs still alive with God

"And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong." (Mk 12:26-27)

Parts of the same vine/body

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (Jn 15:6)

"But God has so composed the body...If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Cor 12:24-27)

"For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." (Rom 12:4-5)

Intercessory Prayer

"Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints" (Eph 6:18)

"I appeal to you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf" (Rom 15:30)

"To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his call, and may fulfil every good resolve and work of faith by his power" (2 Th 1:11)

Veneration of angels united with God

"And he said, 'No; but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.' And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and worshiped, and said to him, 'What does my lord bid his servant?'" (Jos 5:14)

"So [Gabriel] came near where I stood; and when he came, I was frightened and fell upon my face." (Dan 8:17)

Saints' union with/direct vision of God

"[W]hen the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. . . . For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood." (1 Cor 13:10, 12)

"Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." (1 Jn 3:2)

Saints like angels, alive to God

"And Jesus said to them, 'The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die any more, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living; for all live to him.'" (Lk 20:34-38)

Deceased Onias and Jeremiah interceded for Jews

"What he saw was this: Onias, who had been high priest, a noble and good man, of modest bearing and gentle manner, one who spoke fittingly and had been trained from childhood in all that belongs to excellence, was praying with outstretched hands for the whole body of the Jews. Then likewise a man appeared,

distinguished by his gray hair and dignity, and of marvelous majesty and authority. And Onias spoke, saying, 'This is a man who loves the brethren and prays much for the people and the holy city, Jeremiah, the prophet of God.'" (2 Mac 15:12-14)

Paul's suffering for the church completes Christ's

"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church" (Col 1:24)

Intercession of the saints

"And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer; and he was given much incense to mingle with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar before the throne; and the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God." (Rev 8:3-4)

People called holy (cf. "Holy Mary," "Holy Father")

Examples: John the Baptist a "holy man" (Mk 6:20); God speaks through "holy prophets" (Lk 1:70; Acts 3:21); Letter to the Hebrews directed to the "holy brethren" (Heb 3:1); Children of a believer "are holy" (1 Cor 7:14); Mystery of Christ "revealed to his holy apostles." (Eph 3:5)

Church and Authority

Doctrine, community, sacred rite ("breaking of bread")

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

Christ's love for the church.

"Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." (Eph 5:25-27)

Church is pillar & foundation of the truth

"I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth." (1 Tm 3:14-15)

Christ protects the church

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it." (Mt 16:18)

Church Unity

"I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. The glory which thou hast given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and thou in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them even as thou hast loved me." (Jn 17:20-22)

Obey church leaders

"Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them

do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you." (Heb 13:17)

Church as final authority

"If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector." (Mt 18:17)

Excommunication

"For though absent in body I am present in spirit, and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment in the name of the Lord Jesus on the man who has done such a thing. When you are assembled, and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." (1 Cor 5:3-5)

"By rejecting conscience, certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith, among them Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme." (1 Tim 1:19-20)

In personam Christi

Jesus sending out the seventy: "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." (Lk 10:16)

To the Apostles at the Last Supper: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives any one whom I send receives me; and he who receives me receives him who sent me." (Jn 13:20)

"So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." (2 Cor 5:20)

"and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus." (Gal 4:14)

"But a man named Anani'as with his wife Sapphi'ra sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, 'Anani'as, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? . . . You have not lied to men but to God.' When Anani'as heard these words, he fell down and died." (Acts 5:1-5)

Development of doctrine

Jesus to Apostles: "Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. . . . I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (Jn 16:7, 12-15)

From mustard seed to great tree

"Another parable he put before them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the

air come and make nests in its branches.'" (Mt 13:31-32; *see also* Mk 4:30-32, Lk 13:18-19)

Pharisees succeeded Moses (seat of Moses)

"The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice." (Mt 23:2-3)

Priesthood and Worship

Apostolic succession

"For [Judas] was numbered among us, and was allotted his share in this ministry.... For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his habitation become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it; and 'His office let another take.' So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us... must become with us a witness to his resurrection.' And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsab'bas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthi'as. And they prayed and said, 'Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show which one of these two thou hast chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside, to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthi'as; and he was enrolled with the eleven apostles." (Acts 1:15-26)

"This is why I left you in Crete, that you might amend what was defective, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you" (Ti 1:5)

Role of presbyters/elders (priests)

"The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter." (Acts 15:6)

"Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsab'bas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren, with the following letter: "The brethren, both the apostles and the elders, to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cili'cia, greeting.'" (Acts 15:22-23)

"Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you." (1 Tm 4:14)

"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching;" (1 Tm 5:17)

"Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor participate in another man's sins; keep yourself pure." (1 Tm 5:22)

"Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven." (Jas 5:14-15)

Call no one father?

"What then shall we say about Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh?" (Rom 4:1)

“For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” (1 Cor 4:15)

“And Stephen said: ‘Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran’” (Acts 7:2)

“[F]or you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to lead a life worthy of God” (1Thes 2:11-12)

“I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.” (1 Jn 2:13)

Paul unmarried

“I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own special gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is well for them to remain single as I do.” (1 Cor 7:7-8)

Celibacy (Church practice; not a dogma)

“The disciples said to him, ‘If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is not expedient to marry.’ But he said to them, ‘Not all men can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to receive this, let him receive it.’” (Mt 19:10-12)

“I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to please the Lord; but the married man is anxious about worldly affairs, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided.” (1 Cor 7:32-34)

Members of body have different roles

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;” (1 Cor 12:4-5)

“And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?” (1 Cor 12:28-29)

Melchizedek

(see Eucharist section, above)

Vain repetition?

“And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all round and within, and day and night they never cease to sing, ‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!’” (Rev 4:8)

Kneeling

“Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven;” (1 Kings 8:54)

“Then [Solomon] knelt upon his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven;” (2 Chr 6:13)

“And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and kneeling before him said, ‘Lord, have mercy on my son...’” (Mt 17:14-15)

“But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.’” (Lk 5:8)

“[F]or it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.’” (Rom 14:11)

“[A]t the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth” (Phil 2:10)

“And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever;” (Rev 4:9-10)

Incense

“[A]nd going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” (Mt 2:11)

“And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints” (Rev 5:8)

“And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer; and he was given much incense to mingle with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar before the throne; and the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God.” (Rev 8:3-4)

Deuterocanon

The Septuagint (ancient Greek translation of OT which included the Deuterocanonals) quoted by NT writers is noticeably different from Hebrew version (e.g., compare Is 7:14 with Mt 1:23, Is 40:3 with Mt 3:3, Joel 2:30-31 with Acts 2:19-29, and Ps 95:7-9 with Heb 3:7-9).

“Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life.” (Heb. 11:35, alluding to the martyrdom of the mother and sons described in 2 Maccabees 7:1-42)

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Pet 1:6-7, cf. Wisdom 3:5-6)

Paul's discourse on the natural knowledge of the Creator and the sin of idolatry in Rom 1:18-25 tracks the same discussion in Wisdom 13:1-10.

Statues, images, and relics

God commands the making of images

God commands the making of golden cherubim (Ex 25:18-22, 26:1,31) and the bronze serpent (Num 21:8-9); Solomon's temple contained statues of cherubim and images of cherubim, oxen, and lions (1 Kg 6:23-35, 7:29-36).

Elisha's bones

"And as a man was being buried, lo, a marauding band was seen and the man was cast into the grave of Eli'sha; and as soon as the man touched the bones of Eli'sha, he revived, and stood on his feet." (2 Kg 13:21)

Jesus' garment

"And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent round to all that region and brought to him all that were sick, and

besought him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment; and as many as touched it were made well." (Mt 14:35-36; *see also* Mk 6:56)

"She had heard the reports about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, 'If I touch even his garments, I shall be made well.' And immediately the hemorrhage ceased; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease." (Mk 5:27-29; *see also* Mt 9:20-22)

Peter's shadow

"[T]hey even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed." (Acts 5:15-16)

Paul's handkerchiefs and aprons

"God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out." (Acts 19:11-12)

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