

Educated Catholic Christians

Gregg – Hi Greg, you seem like a good guy – I’ve wanted to talk to you about something. How do you feel about God?

Gregg – I’m into it. I believe in God – you know the whole thing.

Gregg – Cool I thought you might be into it - where do you go to Church

Gregg – OLSH, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Gregg – Oh – uh what is that ... Lutheran?

Gregg - No – Catholic

Gregg – Okay..... We’ll uh ... that’s good I guess, but maybe we can talk about a couple of things that are important to Christians

Gregg – Sure!

Gregg – Well – you guys don’t really follow Christianity I don’t think.

Gregg – Yes we do – why do you say that?

Gregg – Well I don’t want to make you feel bad – but you have to be saved to be Christian and go to heaven. Are you saved?

Gregg – If you mean saved – like have I accepted Jesus and know Him to be the Way the Truth and the Life – yes I am saved. But we believe we have to every day think and follow and pray to Him. Being saved isn’t a one time, just get it done thing. It is only the beginning. The Bible tells us Jesus sends a helper to us (Holy Spirit) but we show that we are Christian by fulfilling our faith with fruits. You know – Jesus is the vine and we are the branches and He expects fruit – also remember the fig tree that bears no fruit and Jesus made an example of that?

Gregg – Oh – uh OK.. I think I remember that in the Bible, well that’s cool. We also believe you are saved by grace and you have to believe this. I’ve heard Catholics don’t believe in grace – you guys believe in works.

Gregg – We believe in grace.

Gregg – Well, what is grace to you?

Gregg – Grace is that undeserved free gift of eternal life. We choose to accept that gift by accepting Him. But doing the “Easy Button” thing with Christianity isn’t ok – Jesus tells us not to be lukewarm. A lot of people don’t read the Bible – they just memorize a few verses. Gregg, please read James – if you don’t you are really missing an important part of the Word. Also – Paul talks about deeds in Colossians – We follow God’s will, that

makes us smarter in following Him, that results in deeds (fruits) and this brings us closer to God in relationship and in knowledge. Good deeds done through God's will are great blessings from our Father – Abba.

Gregg – It sounds like you read the Bible – do you do that all the time?

Greg – Yeah in Mass. I'm also starting to read it outside of Church.

Gregg – You talked about God's will – I think you'll find out a lot of things you guys do that are not God's will. As a matter of fact I think you'll find out you are sinning and your soul is in danger.

Greg – That's weird. All our beliefs are first founded on the Bible.

Gregg – Well, yes you say that but Greg – you have to confess your sins, pray the sinner's prayer and be born again. The worship of Mary is evil. Worshipping statues of saints is idolatry, works getting to heaven and not being born again – and that confession thing Catholics do – that's just really wild.

Greg – Oh – you mean born again like “reborn” that's often said in Mass. And you're right – worshipping Mary is wrong – only those people who are misinformed do that – in other words we don't worship Mary. Same thing with saints. We do ask them to pray for us – like all Christians should do – it is called intercession and as far as I know – all Christian Churches believe this. And the statue thing is nothing more than reminders of great believers. People use different things to remind them of good – like crosses or doves.

Now confession or reconciliation is in the Bible. That is a long discussion but we see priests as extensions of the apostles and imitators of Christ – not Christ but who were sent out to forgive sins IN JESUS' NAME – remember everything we believe is centered on Christ.

Gregg – Don't you worship Mary? – say prayers to her – and believe stuff that isn't in the Bible. Jesus had brothers – it says so – a bunch!!! And the assumption thing – What's with that? – there is nothing about that in the Bible.

Greg – She is Jesus' mother – the mother of the Church – she deserves to be honored – and we do ask her to pray for us. It is too bad that most non- Catholic Churches just ignore her except at Christmas. There is tradition about her virginity – not everything that was considered known to everyone was written down in the early Bible. Remember what John said at the end of John – about if all the things Jesus did were written down, all the books in the world could not contain His actions and life on earth. It's kind of like us not having to state things that are obvious in our everyday life.

Joseph was gone when Jesus was 30. He might have died and was probably an older man – he may have had sons from a wife that died and the term brother could mean what we mean cousin.... Anyhow this really distracts from Christ. Anything that takes our attention off God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit is a loss for us.

Gregg – Look Greg, I didn't understand your beliefs I guess. I know there are some differences but really – we believe the same thing it seems. Sorry I thought so differently.

Greg – One thing though Gregg – that is the Eucharist – this to us is the real body and blood of Jesus – you know supernatural stuff – it is very cool. Now – please read John 6:66 – and see how many people ran from Him when they realized He was talking about His flesh and blood. In fact come to Mass with me and check it out. I love the Eucharist.

And if you read those nasty cartoons, Catholics don't worship cookies. If we can believe the first verse in the Bible – why should we find it hard that Christ truly is in the host and it really is His blood. Through God, all things are possible.

Gregg – OK, OK. Tell you what, let's get together more often and talk about this stuff. I like it.