

**A Biblical Study of
The Catechism
of the Catholic Church:
Bible Answers to the Most
Frequently Asked Questions
about Catholic Beliefs and Practices**

Dr. Jonathan Carl

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**WHAT IS
VENERATION?
IS MARY OUR
MOTHER?
SHOULD MARY
BE VENERATED?**

NOTE: The same word “venerate” is used to describe the Bible, images, Mary, saints, & angels.

Merriam-Webster’s Definitions:

Veneration - “respect or awe inspired by the dignity, wisdom, dedication, or talent of a person”

Worship - “excessive admiration of or devotion to a person”

Adoration - “strong feelings of love or admiration”

Sacred - “worthy of religious veneration, holy, dedicated or set apart for the service or worship of a deity”

Prayer - “an address (such as a petition) to God or a god in word or thought”

Genuflect - “to touch the knee to the floor or ground especially in worship”

the Church
venerates in Mary
the purest
realization of
faith” (CCC 149)

“the Church has
always venerated
the Scriptures as she
venerates the Lord’s
Body” (CCC 103)

“Through the icon of Christ and his works of salvation, it is he whom we adore.” (CCC 1192)

“Through sacred images of of the holy Mother of God, of the angels and the saints, we venerate the persons represented” (CCC 1192)

“Jesus is Mary’s only
son, but her spiritual
motherhood extends
to all men”
(CCC 501)

According to the dictionary definitions, how different are the words “veneration”, “worship”, “adoration”, and “sacred”?

Where is the line crossed from “veneration” to “worship” or “adoration”?

What are the differences and similarities in Catholic practices of veneration to Mary and worship to God?

What protections are in place so people do not have more affection for Mary than Jesus?

Matthew 11:11 “Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” (ESV)

Considering what Jesus said about John the Baptist in Matthew 11:11, why is he not given more honor than Mary in the Bible? Why is Mary not referenced as “our Mother” in the Bible?

Does the Bible command
the use of images,
prayers, the Eucharist,
or sacrifices in order to
give honor to Mary, the
saints, or angels?

Psalm 71:16 “With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.” (ESV)

Psalm 72:18 “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.” (ESV)

Isaiah 26:13 “O LORD our God...your name alone we bring to remembrance.” (ESV)

Does Psalm 71:16,
72:8 or Isaiah 26:13
focus on angels or
saints? Why not?

Philippians 4:8 “Finally,
brothers, whatever is true,
whatever is honorable, whatever
is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is
commendable, if there is any
excellence, if there is anything
worthy of praise, think about
these things.” (ESV)

Does the Bible use the word
“veneration”? What does
Philippians 4:8 say to do about
things that are “worthy of
praise”?

Do Catholic practices go beyond
“thinking about these things”?

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