

# The Christian Faith In The Doctrinal Documents Of The Catholic Church

For those who yearn for a deeper walk of faith, their journey can begin here. Dr. R. C. Sproul takes theology down from the dusty shelves of theological libraries and expounds in clear and simple terms more than one hundred major Christian doctrines. He offers readers an essential understanding of the Christian faith that will kindle a lifelong love for truth, which is foundational to maturity in Christ. Here are theologically sound explanations of the biblical concepts every Christian should know, written in a way that we all can understand. Sproul's homespun analogies and illustrations from everyday life make this book interesting, informative, and easy to read. A guide to living an authentic Christian life urges readers to seek an expression of faith that is personal, rather than in accordance with the belief systems of others, in a handbook that cites the examples of Jesus while offering a perspective on the unlimited nature of God.

Foundation of Christian faith was given by revelation of the word of Jesus Christ by the HOLY SPIRIT. The word of God is the foundation of faith through which we must believe to receive his promises, salvation, healing, peace, and joy, for our lives,

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[eternal life for ever and ever]. For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 cor. 5: 7, Living accord to the truth of God's word and the testimony of his spirit. Faith is in believing God's testimony and living in agreement with it.

This updated second edition of the Catechism of the Catholic Church incorporates all the final modifications made in the complete, official Latin text, accompanied by line-by-line explanations of orthodox Catholicism, summaries of each section, a detailed index, extensive cross-references, and helpful footnotes.

What does it mean to believe in God? This question still provokes a recalcitrant world. In spite of the apparent disinterest of our age, the religious question continues to task and to vex, sometimes quietly, sometimes dramatically. When religious divisions occasion civil strife, believers are faced with an even more radical inquiry. Wherein lies the real truth about Christian doctrine and its place in our lives? Can we appeal to any authority for belief? How do we escape the suspicions of a skeptical age? In this book, Romanus Cessario explores these questions and suggests responses taken from the history of theology. He offers a readable account of the accumulated wisdom of the Christian tradition concerning the faith-question, citing as major authorities the saints, those who have realized the will of God throughout the ages. Faith supplies not

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only the assurance but also the substance of things hoped for. The experience of Israel teaches that "God has foreseen something better for us"; this "something better" resides in the Word of God that takes flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Because it keeps being born again in the heart of every believer, as St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us, it leads us to the blessedness of eternal life. Since the end of the Second Vatican Council in 1965, authors have dealt mainly with the existential dimensions of Christian life. This volume, the fruit of more than two decades of contemplation on the virtues of Christian life, complements these as well as historical studies about faith. It presents a coherent meditation on faith's principal concerns: its acts of belief and confession, and its character as a virtue in the Christian life. Father Cessario explains how the mysteries of faith--what the Christian believer professes each Sunday in the Creed--transform our lives and make us living images of the Triune God. Consequently, this book will meet a wide range of needs by answering the questions of the informed reader, animating study groups and parish seminars, and stimulating the ordinary believer to appropriate "the depth of the riches and the wisdom and knowledge of God." ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Romanus Cessario, O.P., is professor of systematic theology at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts. Before assuming this post in the fall

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of 1995, Father Cessario taught at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. He served there as Academic Dean from 1979 to 1987. He is the author of numerous works, including *The Moral Virtues and Theological Ethics*, *Le Virtu*, and *Perpetual Angelus: As the Saints Pray the Rosary*, and presently serves on the editorial boards of *The Thomist*, the French journal *Pierre d'Angle*, and the *National Catholic Register*.

from the Preface: The subject of this book is not 'apologetics' but 'dogmatics': that is, it is intended primarily, not for those who are outside, but for those who are inside the Christian fold. It is our duty as Christians to try to bring all men to the knowledge of the truth; but we cannot do so, unless we ourselves know clearly what the Christian religion is. The lectures on which this book is based were given, through many years, to Anglican candidates for ordination, and were at all times subjected to their criticism. Readers are warned, as they were warned, to take no statement for granted, but to check it for themselves. No belief is really ours until we have made it our own (St. John 4:42). This book is intended chiefly for members of the Anglican churches, which, though they have no doctrines peculiar to themselves, have a standpoint and an emphasis of their own, which is given here without qualification or apology. For this reason, more space is devoted to Anglican authority, formularies,

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and organization, than might otherwise be justified.... Many Christians want to witness for their faith, but they are afraid they will not be able to answer questions that others may ask of them. First Peter 3:15 reminds believers to always be prepared to "make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." Norman Geisler and Chad Meister realize the fear of facing questions about the Christian faith. Their book *Reasons for Faith* gives believers grounded biblical apologetics to help them defend their faith. By covering the importance of apologetics and then applying apologetics to popular culture and theological issues, these authors give all Christians the tools they need to stand firm in their faith and to be able to share that faith in today's society.

Uses the biblical tale of the prodigal son to provide both an introduction to Christianity and a primer to the nature of the gospel for believers, discussing how Jesus' essential message as revealed by the story can enable a greater understanding of the Christian faith.

Applied expository guide to Hebrews—a book that shows us how and why Jesus is better than anything else. We are all tempted to drift away from Jesus, but in the book of Hebrews God gives us an anchor: a detailed understanding of how and why Jesus is better than anything else. Seminary professor Michael J. Kruger unpacks this rich book verse by

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verse. He explains the Old Testament background, gives plenty of application for our lives today, and shows us how Jesus is the fulfilment of all God's work on earth. He encourages us to live by faith in Jesus—the only anchor for our souls. This expository guide can be read as a book; used as a devotional; and utilized in teaching and preaching.

Sometimes it is easy to view the Old Testament as difficult to apply to our day-to-day lives. As contemporary Christians, we may even wonder whether it is possible for us to establish our apostolic roots in the Old Testament. *Christian Faith in the Old Testament* helps us complete this daunting task with ease. In this intriguing and informative study, Gareth Lee Cockerill helps us view the New Testament as a fulfillment of the Old Testament, giving us a broad perspective on Scripture as a whole. In language that is easily accessible to the layperson, Gareth explores the role of each major part of the Old Testament Canon and what part each plays in the total scope of biblical revelation. Additionally, *Christian Faith in the Old Testament* offers important guidance to contemporary believers about how each part of the Old Testament Canon applies today. This book is the perfect choice for intelligent modern Christians looking to discover their apostolic roots in the Old Testament. Features include: Understand how the Old Testament applies to life today Discover the contemporary Christian's

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apostolic roots in the Old Testament Gain a broad perspective on Scripture as a whole

The New York Times bestselling author of *The Prodigal Prophet* uncovers the essential message of Jesus, locked inside his most familiar parable.

Newsweek called renowned minister Timothy Keller "a C.S. Lewis for the twenty-first century" in a feature on his first book, *The Reason for God*. In that book, he offered a rational explanation of why we should believe in God. Now, in *The Prodigal God*, Keller takes his trademark intellectual approach to understanding Christianity and uses the parable of the prodigal son to reveal an unexpected message of hope and salvation. Within that parable Jesus reveals God's prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic. This book will challenge both the devout and skeptics to see Christianity in a whole new way.

This reader-friendly primer offers a concise yet thorough overview of the Christian faith. Hans Schwarz, one of the major Lutheran theologians of the last half-century, covers the Christian faith from creation to the final fulfillment of life. He gives his account of the major points of Christian doctrine, always moving from the biblical text to the unfolding of the faith through the centuries to contemporary significance. This brief systematic theology will appeal to professors, students, pastors, and educated lay readers who want a quick but profound

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and biblically grounded overview of the Christian faith.

Based on the National Study of Youth and Religion--the same invaluable data as its predecessor, *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*--Kenda Creasy Dean's compelling new book, *Almost Christian*, investigates why American teenagers are at once so positive about Christianity and at the same time so apathetic about genuine religious practice. In *Soul Searching*, Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton found that American teenagers have embraced a "Moralistic Therapeutic Deism"--a hodgepodge of banal, self-serving, feel-good beliefs that bears little resemblance to traditional Christianity. But far from faulting teens, Dean places the blame for this theological watering down squarely on the churches themselves. Instead of proclaiming a God who calls believers to lives of love, service and sacrifice, churches offer instead a bargain religion, easy to use, easy to forget, offering little and demanding less. But what is to be done? In order to produce ardent young Christians, Dean argues, churches must rediscover their sense of mission and model an understanding of being Christian as not something you do for yourself, but something that calls you to share God's love, in word and deed, with others. Dean found that the most committed young Christians shared four important

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traits: they could tell a personal and powerful story about God; they belonged to a significant faith community; they exhibited a sense of vocation; and they possessed a profound sense of hope. Based on these findings, Dean proposes an approach to Christian education that places the idea of mission at its core and offers a wealth of concrete suggestions for inspiring teens to live more authentically engaged Christian lives. Persuasively and accessibly written, *Almost Christian* is a wake up call no one concerned about the future of Christianity in America can afford to ignore.

This book offers a comprehensive and lively look at the Christian faith by internationally-respected theologian, Colin Gunton. Distilling a lifetime's experience of teaching and thought, this is a book for those who wish to understand the meaning and relevance of the fundamental beliefs of Christianity. The order of the book follows the central themes of the Nicene Creed, the manifesto of the Christian faith. Beginning with consideration of creation and providence, it moves on to the person and work of Christ, and then to the human appropriation of belief and eschatology. A concluding chapter brings together, in a treatment of the Trinity, a discussion of the divine attributes and the doctrine of God that has been revealed in the process of the book's argument. No other book offers such a comprehensive, systematic and accessible overview

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of the Christian faith. It will prove invaluable to students of introductory theology, as well as anyone interested in the fundamental claims of Christianity. Ever since the apostle Paul addressed the Stoic and Epicurean philosophers in Athens, relating the Christian worldview to a non-Christian world has been a challenge. And despite Peter's charge to be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15), most Christian laypeople have left apologetics—the defense of the faith—to the ecclesiastical pros. *Faith Has Its Reasons* is a study of four different models of how apologetics should be done, an assessment of their strengths and weaknesses, and a proposal for integrating the best insights of each. Kenneth Boa and Robert Bowman have assembled a wealth of information about what Christians believe and how to present that faith to an unbelieving world. Remarkable both in its depth of content and ease of accessibility, *Faith Has Its Reasons* gives Christian laypeople the tools to address such critical questions as: Why is belief in God rational despite the prevalence of evil in the world? What facts support the church's testimony that Jesus rose from the dead? Can we be certain Christianity is true? How can our faith in Christ be based on something more secure than our own understanding without descending into an irrational emotionalism?

In one systematic volume, James Montgomery Boice provides a readable overview of Christian theology. With scholarly rigor and a pastor's heart, Boice carefully opens the topics of the nature of God, the person and work of Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit in justification and sanctification, and ecclesiology and eschatology. This updated edition includes a foreword by Philip Ryken and a section-by-section study guide.

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In today's secular world, the Christian faith is viewed as only one aspect of what could be called "religious life."

Acknowledging this, Hendrikus Berkhof begins this thought-provoking study with a sketch of religion and faith in general before narrowing it down to a discussion of the specific place of Christian faith in all of reality.

Those looking for a single resource that collects clear teachings on the most important doctrines of Christianity need look no further than Gregg Allison's 50 Core Truths of the Christian Faith. This volume covers foundational doctrines of the nature and works of God, the Bible, God's created beings, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, salvation, the church, and the end times. And each chapter features clear guidance for how to teach and apply the doctrine today. Pastors, Sunday school teachers, and lay students of theology will find this an indispensable resource for understanding and teaching Christian theology.

Aurelius Ambrosius, better known in English as Ambrose, was a bishop of Milan who became one of the most influential ecclesiastical figures of the 4th century. He was the Roman governor of Liguria and Emilia, headquartered in Milan, before being made bishop of Milan by popular acclamation in 374.

What the book is about: This autobiography of Rev. Curt's spiritual journey offers a commentary on why much of the theology and current practices of the Christian Faith are no longer viable for the 21st century Christian. His historical insights, reviews of the Aramaic and Greek texts, and metaphorical views are based on his life-long study of the Christian scriptures. Today's Christians have accepted advancements in many areas, including science, technology and medicine, but would not want to be treated medically by a doctor of antiquity or give up their computer and smart phone for the quill and parchment. The only exception has been in

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religion. Many Christians still want to honor the ethics, dogmas and rituals of an antiquated idea of God. Such antiquated theology sometimes creates a faith of exclusivity that forgets the basic teaching of Jesus to love one another. Curt brings to this discussion the universal principle of Divine Love that is found in all the religious traditions. All humanity, everything in the universe was created in God's love regardless of race, color, gender, or creed. We all share the same DNA, and while all traditions honor the one God, there are many paths to that Divine Love. For Rev. Curt, the simple fundamental truth of the Christian faith for the 21st century is found in Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you? To serve justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God." A Grammar of Christian Faith is a two-volume set that aims to confront the widespread disarray in the language and practices of Christian faith today. As a 'grammar,' it explains how Christian faith provides special ways of speaking and acting that make sense of human life by giving it meaning, practicality, and hope. It advances the thesis that learning how to speak Christian language in worship and life is crucial to learning how to be a Christian. Rather than supposing that Christian language and theology need continual updating in order to be relevant to the world, Jones urges the church to recover anew how Christian concepts and understanding are intended to form Christian life in all its rich depths. Construing theology as confessional theology in the context of the church, Jones understands the church as that liberative and redemptive community called into being by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to witness in word and deed the triune God for the benefit of the world. The full range of doctrinal themes that are deemed essential to the witness of the church are explored, including clear explanations of why they are essential and how they are to be understood. In pursuit of a truthful and beneficial witness of the church, the work centers

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on a trinitarian understanding of God, in which God freely and lovingly interacts with the world as Creator, Reconciler, and Redeemer. The work throughout affirms the belief that the gracious triune God is the Ultimate Companion who will redeem all creation.

Reasons for Faith (Foreword by Lee Strobel) Making a Case for the Christian Faith Crossway

Symbols of the Christian Faith is an illustrated guide to the major visual symbols used by the Christian church throughout history. These stylized illustrations, designed by artist Alva William Steffler, are intended to provide usable, up-to-date resources for contemporary church worship and Christian education. Throughout church history symbols have been used to aid worship and to communicate difficult spiritual ideas. Steffler here collects these symbols, from early Christian catacomb art to the present, offering fresh graphic interpretations of old visual forms. The accompanying text notes the biblical sources for the various symbols and traces their use in church tradition and their links to Greco-Roman culture. Extensive glossaries and indexes round out the book. Broadly inclusive and sensitive to the perspectives of every church tradition, this volume will be an invaluable resource for churches using Christian art as well as for general readers curious about the meaning of common Christian symbols. Emerging adults want to believe that science and faith can coexist peacefully, and Greg Cootsona argues that they can. In his book *Mere Science and Christian Faith* he holds out a vision for the integration of science and faith and how it can lead us more deeply into the conversations that confront the church today.

"Primers like this—a trenchant reminder of the vital matters that lie at the heart of the Christian faith—are ever needful, and especially so in this theologically befuddled generation that is far too often heedless of the value of the past. Highly

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recommended!" —Michael A. G. Haykin Professor of Church History and Biblical Spirituality, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary What difference should doctrine make on our day-to-day Christian life? This book summarizes Christianity in 5 core truths the Trinity, the Son of God, the Spirit, the church, and heaven and hell to show how theology is intended to bring people closer to God. Drawing from writers throughout church history particularly St. Augustine, Richard Baxter, and C. S. Lewis this book summarizes the building blocks of pure Christianity and how they shape minds, hearts, and actions, so readers can know simply and concisely what it means to live for God.

Michael Horton's highly anticipated *The Christian Faith* represents his magnum opus and will be viewed as one of—if not the—most important systematic theologies since Louis Berkhof wrote his in 1932. A prolific, award-winning author and theologian, Professor Horton views this volume as “doctrine that can be preached, experienced, and lived, as well as understood, clarified, and articulated.” It is written for a growing cast of pilgrims making their way together and will be especially welcomed by professors, pastors, students, and armchair theologians. Features of this volume include: (1) a brief synopsis of biblical passages that inform a particular doctrine; (2) surveys of past and current theologies with contemporary emphasis on exegetical, philosophical, practical, and theological questions; (3) substantial interaction with various Christian movements within the Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox traditions, as well as the hermeneutical issues raised by postmodernity; and (4) charts, sidebars, questions for discussion, and an extensive bibliography, divided into different entry levels and topics. This discussion of the doctrinal positions of the evangelical Lutheran church addresses all the articles of faith.

Making Sense of Martin Luther uses a conversational format

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to explore how Luther's dynamic understanding of God's life-changing gospel informs day-to-day faith and life in the world today. Introduction: Luther as Monk, Myth, and Messenger Chapter 1: The Reluctant Reformer—Introducing "the Monk Who Changed the World" Chapter 2: Freedom! Justification by Grace through Faith Chapter 3: The Present-Tense God—Law and Gospel Chapter 4: The Ambidextrous God—The Two Kingdoms and God's Ongoing Work in the World Chapter 5: Called for Good—Vocation, Sinning Boldly, and the Respiratory System of the Body of Christ Chapter 6: God Hidden and Revealed—Luther's Theology of the Cross and the Sacraments Chapter 7: Semper Simul—Sin, Forgiveness, and "Becoming Christian" Accompanying leader guide and DVD are available.

In this brief and winsome book, Michael Reeves presents an introduction to the Christian faith that is rooted in the triune God. He takes cues from preachers and teachers down through the ages, setting key doctrines of creation, the person and work of Christ, and life in the Spirit into a simple framework of the Christian life.

Christian Faith is one of the most important works of Christian theology ever written. The author, known as the "father of theological liberalism," correlates the entirety of Christian doctrine to the human experience of and consciousness of God. A work of exhaustive scholarship written in deep sympathy with the ministry of congregations and church bodies, Christian Faith has inspired admiration and debate from all quarters of the Christian family since its first publication in 1821. This is the first full

