

# The Way, the Truth, and the Life

## I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

- I. **John 14:6** “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.”
- II. Everything the Catholic Church teaches is in reference to Jesus Christ

## The Way

- I. The World
  - a. There is no God
  - b. If there is a God, there are many paths to him
    - i. Christianity is just one of those paths
- II. Jesus
  - a. I am God
  - b. The only way to the Father is through me
    - i. There are no other paths

## The Truth

- I. Truth exists and is knowable
  - a. The truth is a person, Jesus Christ
    - i. Are you here to receive the truth? Are you here to receive Jesus Christ?
  - b. **Fides et Ratio, 25, Pope Saint John Paul II** All human beings desire to know; and truth is the proper object of this desire,...People cannot be genuinely indifferent to the question of whether what they know is true or not. If they discover that it is false, they reject it; but if they can establish its truth, they feel themselves rewarded. It is this that St. Augustine teaches when he writes: ‘I have met many who wanted to deceive, but none who wanted to be deceived.’
- II. We are designed to seek the truth
  - a. **Discourses 3.5.5-6, Epictetus** Do you not know that disease and death needs must overtake us, no matter what we are doing? They overtake the farmer at his work in the fields, the sailor on the sea. What do you wish to be doing when it overtakes you? For no matter what you do you will have to be overtaken by death. If you have anything better to be doing when you are so overtaken, get to work on that.
  - b. **Sermo Guelferb 9, 3, Saint Augustine** Let us consider, dear friends, the Resurrection of Christ: indeed, just as his Passion stood for our old life, his Resurrection is a sacrament of new life....You have believed, you have been baptized; the old life is dead, killed on the Cross, buried in Baptism. The old life in which you lived is buried: the new life emerges. Live well: live life in such a way that when death comes you will not die.
- III. The Church exists to hand on the truth, Jesus Christ

- a. **Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen** It is easy to find truth; it is hard to face it, and harder still to follow it.
- b. **Saint John Henry Newman** Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt.
  - i. Difficulty is not equivalent to wrongness
  - ii. Difficulty does mean hard work is required
    - 1. **1 Corinthians 9:24-25** Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 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.
- c. Faith and reason are not opposed to each other
- d. **Frank Sheed, Theology for Beginners, Epilogue** Truth is not simply a weapon to be used in warfare for the souls of others. It is food for the mind and light for the mind....To the devil Our Lord quoted Deuteronomy – “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” The words God utters – commands for our action, truths for our seeing – are more life-giving, more nourishing, even than the bread which nourishes the body. For the intellect exists to know truth, and nothing else can nourish it....It is a peculiarity of food that it nourishes only those who eat it; we are not nourished by the food someone else has eaten. Only the truths which the mind itself has digested can nourish it....[H]ow can one love God and not want to know all one can about him? Love desires knowledge, and knowledge serves love. Each truth that we learn about God is a new reason for loving him.

## The Life

- I. We need God’s grace to live the Christian life
- II. There is one God
  - a. He is infinite
  - b. He is personal (He loves)
    - i. He is love
    - ii. **John 15:13** “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”
- III. God is a Trinity of Persons who give and receive love infinitely (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit)
- IV. God creates out of love
- V. Man is the pinnacle of creation
  - a. We are created to know and love God
  - b. We are created to inherit his eternal life
  - c. We are created in God’s image and likeness
    - i. We are free to love or to reject our freedom (sin)

- VI. The consequences of the Fall to Adam and Eve
  - a. Lost God's supernatural life (Sanctifying grace)
  - b. Disordered passions
  - c. Suffering and physical death
- VII. The consequences of the Fall to us (their descendants)
  - a. We cannot inherit the supernatural life of God from them
  - b. We now have an inclination toward sin instead of God (concupiscence)
  - c. We experience suffering and death
- VIII. God does not abandon us, his plan continues
  - a. Everything in the Old Testament is pointing forward to Jesus Christ and his Church
  - b. **Hebrews 1:1-2** In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son...
- IX. He sends his Son to offer himself, to reconcile us to God
  - a. The crucifixion shows us the selflessness of God
  - b. A crucifix is the image of God's love
  - c. We now, by faith in Jesus Christ, can offer ourselves, our lives to God
  - d. **Adversus Haereses, 3, 19, 1, Saint Irenaeus** For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God.
  - e. **2 Peter 1:4** ...become partakers of the divine nature.
- X. Jesus builds his Church
  - a. **Matthew 16:18** "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it."
  - b. Through the Church (his Mystical Body) we can access Jesus directly
    - i. He gives us sanctifying grace through the sacraments
  - c. The Holy Spirit protects and continues to build the Church
- XI. Sacraments
  - a. In Baptism we are born again in water and the Spirit
    - i. We put on Christ and receive adoption and eternal life
    - ii. It prepares us for the other sacraments
  - b. The Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ
    - i. In Holy Communion we receive God himself
  - c. In Reconciliation (Confession) God mercifully receives us back after sin and cleanses us
  - d. In all the sacraments we receive sanctifying grace so that we can grow in holiness
- XII. If we reject God to the end, he respects that freedom and we will end up in Hell
- XIII. God desires a response of love from each of us
  - a. We can choose God or choose sin

## Conclusion

- I. The Church offers you the joy of knowing Jesus Christ
  - a. Abundant life
    - i. Not as the world sees abundant life
  - b. Involves suffering (Taking up our Cross and following Jesus)
- II. Jesus has been calling you since your life began
  - a. **Revelation 3:20** “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”
    - i. He still respects your freedom
    - ii. He will not force his way in
    - iii. He wants you to open the door to your heart and let him in
  - b. **Pope Saint John Paul II** “Do not be afraid. Open, I say open wide the doors for Christ.”

## Closing Prayer

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou o prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.