

**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

Downloadable resources and
helpful study videos freely available at:

www.TrustworthyWord.com/catholic

WAS MARY A
VIRGIN HER

ENTIRE LIFE?
DID JESUS HAVE
ANY BROTHERS?

“led the Church to
confess Mary’s
real and perpetual
virginity”
(CCC 499)

“Against this doctrine the objection is raised that the Bible mentions brothers and sisters of Jesus. The Church has always understood these passages as not referring to other children of the Virgin Mary. In fact James and Joseph, ‘brothers of Jesus,’ are sons of another Mary, a disciple of Christ, whom St. Matthew significantly calls ‘the other Mary.’ They are close relations of Jesus, according to an Old Testament expression.” (CCC 500)

“Mary ‘remained a virgin
in conceiving her Son, a
virgin in giving birth to
him, a virgin in carrying
him, a virgin in nursing
him at her breast, always
a virgin” (CCC 510)

Matthew 1:24–25 “When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.” (ESV)

Would Mary not have been a bad wife if she refused to be physically intimate with her husband Joseph?

1 Corinthians 7:3–5 “The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. [4] For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. [5] Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.” (ESV)

Would having other children detract from Mary's holiness? Or add to it according to Gen 1:28?

Genesis 1:28 “And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” (ESV)

1 Timothy 5:14 “So I would have younger widows marry, bear children” (ESV)

John 2:12 “After this he
went down to
Capernaum, with his
mother and his brothers
and his disciples, and
they stayed there for a
few days.” (ESV)

In John 2, Jesus has just performed a miracle changing water to wine and rebuked his mother Mary in the process. This same passage refers to Jesus' mother and "brothers" as continuing with him to Capernaum. Why are these "brothers" referenced and so involved in traveling with Jesus' mother if they are only cousins or more distant relatives?

Why is there no historical or linguistic evidence that the Greek words (adelphoi (“brothers”) and adelphai (“sisters”)) support this idea of them not being brothers and sisters but just distant relatives?

Matthew 13:55–56 “Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? [56] And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” (ESV)

Luke 8:19–21 “Then his mother and his brothers came to him”

John 7:5 “For not even his brothers believed in him.” (ESV)

Acts 1:13–14 “And 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. [14] All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.” (ESV)

1 Corinthians 9:5 “Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?” (ESV)

Why would the Catholic Church invent and propagate the idea that Mary was always a virgin? If they would twist the Scriptures to misrepresent this, what other areas of their Tradition are untrustworthy?

**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

Downloadable resources and
helpful study videos freely available at:

www.TrustworthyWord.com/catholic