

**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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**IS CATHOLIC PENANCE
NECESSARY FOR SALVATION?**

**CAN ONLY PRIESTS AND THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH FORGIVE
SINS?**

**The Sacrament of Conversion,
Penance, Confession, Forgiveness,
and Reconciliation (CCC 1423-24)**

“the Church possesses the power to forgive the sins of the baptized and exercises it through bishops and priests normally in the sacrament of Penance” (CCC 986)

“It is called the sacrament of conversion because it makes sacramentally present Jesus’ call to conversion, the first step in returning to the Father from whom one has strayed by sin.” (CCC 1423)

“It is called the sacrament of Penance, since it consecrates the Christian sinner’s personal and ecclesial steps of conversion, penance, and satisfaction.” (CCC 1423)

“It is called the sacrament of confession, since the disclosure of confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament.” (CCC 1424)

“It is called the sacrament of forgiveness, since by the priest’s sacramental absolution God grants the penitent ‘pardon and peace.’” (CCC 1424)

“It is called the
sacrament of
Reconciliation, because
it imparts to the sinner
the love of God who
reconciles” (CCC 1424)

“One who desires to obtain reconciliation with God and with the Church, must confess to a priest” (CCC 1493)

“Only priests who have received the faculty of absolving from the authority of the Church can forgive sins in the name of Christ.” (1495)

Romans 8:39 "nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation, will
be able to separate us from the love
of God in Christ Jesus our
Lord." (ESV)

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he
is faithful and just to forgive us our
sins and to cleanse us from all
unrighteousness." (ESV)

Romans 8:1–2 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” (ESV)

Who has the power
to forgive according
to the Bible?

After becoming a follower of Jesus, does sin separate us from the love of God?

When did Jesus die for us?
Why did He die for us? What
does Romans 8:1-2 mean?

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