

EVANGELISM TRAINING: Responding to Catholicism P.1

5 Things to Say to a Catholic — Adapted from Ron Rhodes

1. _____

Catholic Position —

- 1. The first aspect of justification (also called “initial justification”) occurs _____
- Original sin is removed, personal sins are forgiven, and “sanctifying grace” is given
 - **CCC 2010a** — Since the initiative belongs to God in the order of grace, *no one can merit the initial grace* of forgiveness and justification, at the beginning of conversion.
 - Conversion is considered _____
 - **CCC 1992** — Justification is conferred in Baptism, the sacrament of faith.
 - **CCC 1266** — The Most Holy Trinity gives the baptized sanctifying grace, the grace of *justification*
 - **Council of Trent (Sources of Catholic Dogma) no. 861, p.264** — If anyone shall say that baptism is optional, that is, not necessary for salvation: let him be anathema
 - **Council of Trent (Sources of Catholic Dogma) no. 858, p.263** — If anyone shall say that real and natural water is not necessary for baptism, and on that account those words of our Lord Jesus Christ: “Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Spirit” (John 3:5), are distorted into some sort of metaphor: let him be anathema
 - Water baptism is _____ for justification
 - **Council of Trent (Sources of Catholic Dogma) no. 851, p.263** — If anyone shall say that by the said sacraments of the New Law, grace is not conferred from the work which has been worked [ex opere operato], but that faith alone in the divine promise suffices to obtain grace: let him be anathema.
 - Salvation _____ —and give benefit by nature of the sacramental action in and of itself
- 2. Second aspect of justification occurs _____

 - **CCC 2010** — Since the initiative belongs to God in the order of grace, *no one can merit the initial grace* of forgiveness and justification, at the beginning of conversion. Moved by the Holy Spirit and by charity, *we can then merit* for ourselves and for others the graces needed for our sanctification, for the increase of grace and charity, and for the attainment of eternal life
 - **CCC 2027** — No one can merit the initial grace which is at the origin of conversion. Moved by the Holy Spirit, we can merit for ourselves and for others all the graces needed to attain eternal life, as well as necessary temporal goods.
 - **CCC 2019** — Justification includes the remission of sins, sanctification, and the renewal of the inner man.
 - **CCC 1861** — Mortal sin is a radical possibility of human freedom, as is love itself. It results in the loss of charity and the privation of sanctifying grace, that is, of the state of grace. If it is not redeemed by repentance and God’s forgiveness, it causes exclusion

from Christ's kingdom and the eternal death of hell, for our freedom has the power to make choices for ever, with no turning back.

- Justification can be lost through committing _____ — conscious, deliberate, and serious sins
- **Council of Trent (Sources of Catholic Dogma) no.895 , p.273** — This sacrament of penance, moreover, is necessary for the salvation of those who have fallen after baptism, as baptism is for those as yet not regenerated.
 - _____ needed to be “re-justified” after committing mortal sin
- **Council of Trent (Sources of Catholic Dogma) no. 847, p.262** — If anyone shall say that the sacraments of the New Law are not necessary for salvation, but are superfluous, and that, although all are not necessary individually, without them or without the desire of them through faith alone men obtain from God the grace of justification: let him be anathema.
 - Justification becomes _____ on man's works
- “Indeed, our good works only have ‘merit’—including graces for ourselves and others to grow in holiness and help attain eternal life—because they are rooted in and aided by Christ's love (CCC 2006–16), so that we might persevere in God's grace instead of rejecting his gift of salvation.”
(<https://www.catholic.com/qa/difference-between-catholic-and-protestant-views-on-justification-and-sanctification>)
 - There is _____ of salvation (can only when one dies)

Their Defense —

- _____ - ⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
 - **Response:** (<https://www.gotquestions.org/baptism-John-3-5.html>)
 - No mention of _____ in passage
 - “Born of water and the Spirit” refers to the same thing as: (vv.3,7) “born again” and (vv.6,8) “born of the Spirit” — _____
 - Water used _____ to describe cleansing of sin or regeneration in both OT + NT (Psalm 51:2, Ezekiel 36:25-26, John 4:10, 1 Corinthians 6:11, Titus 3:5)
- _____ - ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “**Repent and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins**, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
 - **Response:** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qhtTjCl4HQ>)
 - The preposition “for (eis)” can be used two ways
 - 1. _____
 - Ex: I'll give you a dollar FOR your bowl of chili
 - 2. _____
 - Ex: I'm giving you this ribbon FOR your bowl of chili
 - _____ — ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.
 - Use Scripture to interpret Scripture (John 1:12, Acts 16:31, Romans 3:20)

- _____ — So also faith by itself, **if it does not have works**, is dead.
- v.26 — For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also **faith apart from works is dead**.
 - **Response:** _____
 - _____ - ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, **if** someone **says** he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?
 - Not saying a person is justified by good works but that genuine faith will always lead to good works
 - Showing us _____ whether someone has true faith
- Need to “Abide in Christ” — _____ — ⁴**Abide** in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, **unless it abides in the vine**, neither can you, unless you **abide** in me.
 - **Response:** This passage doesn’t teach that abiding in God merits us anything, but that _____ will bear fruit as evidence
- _____ - ²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³**if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting** from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.
 - **Response:** Continuing in the faith doesn’t contribute to one’s justification but _____ (1 John 2:19)
 - If we are born of God, we will _____ (Romans 8:30, 1 Corinthians 1:8-9)

Christian Position —

- Justification _____
 - **Romans 3:20** — ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.
 - **Romans 3:23-24** — ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
 - All sin _____ us from God; we are _____
 - **John 3:16** — ¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
 - **Romans 11:6** — ⁶But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.
 - God’s grace is _____. You can’t _____
 - **Titus 3:5-7** — ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** — ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
 - We are _____ by God’s grace despite our sin because of _____ through the _____
- Justification _____

- **John 6:28-29** — ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”
- **John 20:31** — ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- **Romans 3:28** — ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.
- **Romans 4:4-5** — ⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness
- **Galatians 2:16** — ¹⁶ yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.
- Justification _____
 - **Romans 5:1** — Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9** — ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
 - **John 5:24** — ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
 - Notice the _____ language
- Good Works _____
 - **Romans 6:15-18** — ¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness
 - **Galatians 5:13-14** — ¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
 - **Romans 6:3-4** — ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
- **Roman Catholicism fails to recognize the crucial distinction between:**
 - Working _____ salvation and working _____ salvation
 - Not being saved _____ our works, but in order _____ good works
 - Not doing good works _____ salvation, but because we _____