

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Why Do Catholics Keep Jesus On The Cross?

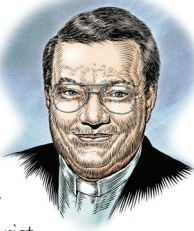
Know This...

Why do Catholics accept false answers to disingenuous faith questions, and then leave the Church? Because many non-Catholics appear confident despite being misinformed, and too many Catholics are unprepared to respond. It's time for us to answer faith questions with confidence. No amount of misinformation can alter the fact that Jesus established one Church—the Catholic Church. It's the sole source of His truth. Can you answer this disingenuous question often asked of Catholics: "Why do you keep Jesus nailed to the cross; don't you know He's risen?" The Church gives us the answer in Sacred Tradition and Scripture.



John: Catholics know that Jesus has been raised from the dead. The crucifix—with its suffering Corpus (the image of Jesus' Body)—is not a rejection of the Risen Christ. It's a potent reminder of the Father's undying love and the Son's unwavering obedience.

James: God the Father sent His only begotten Son to be crucified for our salvation. So the Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that it is only through the power of the crucified Christ that the chains of sin and death were broken.

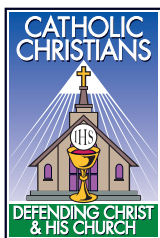


John: The "empty" cross is a most cherished Christian image; but the crucifix is a more visible reminder that Jesus calls us to take up our crosses daily and follow in His steps; even if we have to suffer unto death.

James: When we're sick, we look to doctors for help. When people challenge our Catholic Christian faith with disingenuous questions, we must confidently look to the indefectible Church for help.

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Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." ^{Jn 3:14-15}
 "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me." ^{Mt 10:37-38}
 "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps." ^{Lk 9:23}

PAPA SAYS

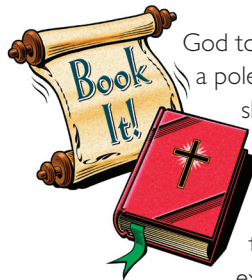
"If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. He handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed." ^{1 Pet 2:20-21, 23-24}



BE ATTITUDES



"Whenever anything disagreeable or displeasing happens to you, remember Christ crucified and be silent." ^{St. John of the Cross} "Apart from the cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven." ^{St. Rose of Lima} "You must accept your cross; if you carry it courageously it will carry you to heaven." ^{St. John Vianney} "Let the crucifix be not only in my eyes and on my breast, but in my heart." ^{St. Bernadette}



God told Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and every one who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ^{Num 21:8} The Apostle Paul preached Christ crucified. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." ^{Gal 2:20}
 "The message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation it is the power of God... Jews demand "signs" and Greeks look for "wisdom," but we preach Christ crucified—a stumbling block to Jews, and an absurdity to Gentiles." ^{1 Cor 1:18, 22-23} "When I came to you, brothers, proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified." ^{1 Cor 2:1-2}

Father, Your Son's Holy Cross is the sign of our redemption through which we may merit salvation. It is the symbol of the entire Paschal mystery. Your sinless Son nailed all my sins and the sins of all humanity to His cross. I pray that each time I gaze upon a crucifix I will remember and appreciate His once-for-all sacrifice. Grant this through Christ the Lord. Amen.

