

## Part Two: **Exposing Error #2 & #3**

### **Catholicism – Who is God? Who is Satan?**

#### Question #2 – Who is God? (C.=Catholicism)

- The Word of God is the only place we can learn the truth about God.
- C. forms its view of God...not from Sola Scriptura but from “depositum fidei.”
- C. does affirm the basic biblical understanding of who God is: eternal, self-existent, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, sovereign, just, holy, loving, and merciful.
- C. affirms the co-equal, triune, 3 Person Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C. affirms God as Creator and gives Him credit for all creation but C. does not take a stand on literal 6 day creation vs. Theistic evolution.

*What is the Catholic position concerning belief or unbelief in evolution? The question may never be finally settled, but there are definite parameters to what is acceptable Catholic belief.*

*Concerning cosmological evolution, the Church has infallibly defined that the universe was specially created out of nothing.*

*Vatican I solemnly defined that everyone must “confess the world and all things which are contained in it, both spiritual and material, as regards their whole substance, have been produced by God from nothing.”*

*The Church does not have an official position on whether the stars, nebulae, and planets we see today were created at that time or whether they developed over time (for example, in the aftermath of the Big Bang that modern cosmologists discuss). However, the Church would maintain that, if the stars and planets did develop over time, this still ultimately must be attributed to God and his plan, for Scripture records: “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host [stars, nebulae, planets] by the breath of his mouth” (Ps. 33:6).*

*Concerning biological evolution, the Church does not have an official position on whether various life forms developed over the course of time. However, it says that, if they did develop, then they did so under the impetus and guidance of God, and their ultimate creation must be ascribed to him.*

*Concerning human evolution, the Church has a more definite teaching. It allows for the possibility that man’s body developed from previous biological forms, under God’s guidance, but it insists on the special creation of his soul. Pope Pius XII declared that “the teaching authority of the Church does not forbid that, in conformity with the present state of human sciences and sacred theology, research and discussions . . . take place with regard to the doctrine of evolution, in as far as it inquires into the origin of the human body as coming from pre-existent and living matter—[but] the Catholic faith obliges us to hold that souls are immediately created by God.” So whether the human body was specially created or developed, we are required to hold as a matter of Catholic faith that the human soul is specially created; it did not evolve, and it is not inherited from our parents, as our bodies are.*

*While the Church permits belief in either special creation or developmental creation on certain questions, it in no circumstances permits belief in atheistic evolution. (catholic.com)*

- C. affirms that Theistic evolution is a possibility but not Atheistic evolution.
- Some protestants also affirm Theistic evolution and even some evangelicals.
- Notice C.’s source of authority for their stance...the Church...not the Scriptures.
- **The foundation of truth is the Word of God while the foundation of Error is adding to, subtracting from, repackaging, superseding the Word of God, or eliminating it altogether. tfs**

#### Question #3 – Who is Satan?

- C. affirms a pretty standard view of Satan. (From CCC)

*391 Behind the disobedient choice of our first parents lurks a seductive voice, opposed to God, which makes them fall into death out of envy.<sup>266</sup> Scripture and the Church’s Tradition see in this being a fallen angel, called “Satan” or the “devil”.<sup>267</sup> The Church teaches that Satan was at first a good angel, made by God: “The devil and the other demons were indeed created **naturally good** by God, but they became evil by their own doing.<sup>268</sup>*

*392 Scripture speaks of a sin of these angels.<sup>269</sup> This “fall” consists in the **free choice** of these created spirits, who radically and irrevocably rejected God and his reign. We find a reflection of that rebellion in the*

tempter's words to our first parents: "You will be like God."<sup>270</sup> The devil "has sinned from the beginning"; he is "a liar and the father of lies".<sup>271</sup>

- The principles of "natural goodness" and "free choice" will come up again.

393 It is the irrevocable character of their choice, and not a defect in the infinite divine mercy, that makes the angels' sin unforgivable. "There is no repentance for the angels after their fall, just as there is no repentance for men after death."<sup>272</sup>

394 Scripture witnesses to the disastrous influence of the one Jesus calls "a murderer from the beginning", who would even try to divert Jesus from the mission received from his Father.<sup>273</sup> "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."<sup>274</sup> In its consequences the gravest of these works was the mendacious seduction that led man to disobey God.

395 The power of Satan is...not infinite. He is only a creature, powerful from the fact that he is pure spirit, but still a creature. He cannot prevent the building up of God's reign. Although Satan may act in the world out of hatred for God and his kingdom in Christ Jesus, and although his action may cause grave injuries - of a spiritual nature and, indirectly, even of a physical nature- to each man and to society, the action is permitted by divine providence which with strength and gentleness guides human and cosmic history. It is a great mystery that providence should permit diabolical activity, but "we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him."<sup>275</sup>

- Dr. Ludwig Ott, 1950's Catholic apologist and theologian wrote his book, Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma. (FCD)

*In Christ's redemptive act the Devil was, in principle, conquered [and] in the general judgment the dominion of the Devil will be completely and finally broken.* (pg.121)

- Satan's power was conquered in principle but in reality his power is the same???
- No differentiating between before and after salvation influence on mankind.
- "Forms of the Activity of the Dominion of the Devil." (FCD pg.121-122)

*The evil spirits seek to do moral injury to mankind through temptation to sin.*

*Man's will is not forced to sin by the temptation of the devil, but retains its **natural freedom**.*

- Ott wrongly takes the promise of **1Cor. 10:13** and applies it **universally** to mankind.
- Universalism is beginning to emerge and will develop further in future topics.
- Scriptural teaching is the universality & total depravity & absolute inability of man.
- Ott continues.

*The bad spirits seek to harm mankind physically also through the causing of physical evil.*

*A particular kind of demoniac infestation is possession in which the evil spirit takes forcible possession of the human body so that the bodily organs and the lower powers of the soul, but not the higher powers of the soul, are dominated by him.*

- I'm not sure where Ott gets his "lower and higher powers of the soul" information. He c.f.'s Exorcisms.
- Ott also claims on FCD Pg.120, regarding the good angels, that everyone universally has a guardian angel.
- Quoting Catholic "infallible dogma" Ott writes:

*Every one of the faithful has his own special guardian angel from baptism (Sent.certa. – infallible doctrine but not formally part of De Fide)*

*According to the general teaching of the theologians, however, not only every baptized person, but every human being, including unbelievers, has his own special guardian angel from his birth.*

- Ott tries to use Jesus words in **Matt.18:10** to support this theory.

*MacArthur Study Bible, This does not suggest that each believer has a personal guardian angel. Rather, the pronoun is collective and refers to the fact that believers are served by angels in general. These angels are pictured "continually" watching the face of God so as to hear His command to them to help a believer when needed. It is extremely serious to treat any fellow believer with contempt since God and the holy angels are so concerned for their well-being.*

- One cross reference is **Heb.1:14**, the context of Jesus being greater than the Angels.
- You would have to understand salvation as **universal...wide gate** and **broad way** and not the **small gate** and the **narrow way** of **Matt. 7:13-14**.
- You would have to understand salvation as **universally possible** in spite of scriptural teaching on election.
- C. promotes the exact opposite idea of **Matt.7:13-14**.