

Luke 1:39-56

Will the REAL Mary Please Stand Up?

(pt. 1)

INTRO: *There are an estimated 1.2 billion Roman Catholics in the world, according to Vatican figures. More than 40% of the world's Catholics live in Latin America - but Africa has seen the biggest growth in Catholic congregations in recent years. (BBC news)*

In this introductory message I'll provide one negative statement and one positive statement concerning the REAL Mary and draw out numerous practical implications:

MARY IS NOT _____

MARY IS _____

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For Further Reflection/Application:

Is it appropriate to sing or pray to Mary? Why or why not?

Is veneration the same things as worship? In Scripture how is worship determined? How does one know if they are violating the first two Commandments (Exodus 20)?

Does Luke 1:28 really support the Catholic view that Mary was sinless? Why not?

Can Jesus truly be Mary's Savior if one embraces "the immaculate conception" and Mary's "immaculate heart?"

How does getting this truth wrong open the door for more egregious Mary theology?

Are your personal beliefs and convictions shaped by holy Scripture? Is Scripture the final authority?

In what ways is Mary an example of godliness? What evidence of grace in Mary's life need to be more true of your own Christian walk? What changes do you need to make to try and imitate the courageous faith, the humble spirit, the pure life, and the obedient heart-posture of Mary?

Read all the "Mary" passages listed below. As Pastor Caleb continues this "Biblical Mary" series compare what Scripture (alone) says concerning Mary with what the Roman Catholic Church teaches.

Related Resources:

<http://thecripplegate.com/the-church-fathers-sola-scriptura/>

<http://thecripplegate.com/strange-fire-the-puritan-commitment-to-sola-scriptura-steve-lawson/>

Related Songs:

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming
What Child is This?

Related Biblical Texts:

Matthew 1:18-25; Mark 3:31-34; 6:1-6; 15:40; Luke 1:26-46; 2:1-52; 11:27-28; John 2:1-12; 19:25-27; Acts 1:12-14; Galatians 4:4-5