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Pope John Paul II on Personal Relationship with Jesus



Many evangelical Christians have the impression that being a Catholic is all about performing set rituals, observing Church laws, holding certain doctrines. Perhaps some Catholics they have met have given them just such an impression. Of course, a life of pure intellectual faith and outward observance is unworthy of the name Christian and Catholic. Here are some quotes from John Paul II demonstrating that Catholic Christianity is a matter of a personal, living relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ—a relationship that is meant to grow ever deeper. **Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio**

“The proclamation of the Word of God has *Christian conversion* as its aim: a complete and sincere adherence to Christ and his Gospel through faith. Conversion is a gift of God, a work of the Blessed Trinity. It is the Spirit who opens people’s hearts so that they can believe in Christ and ‘confess him’ (cf. *1 Cor 12:3*); of those who draw near to him through faith Jesus says: ‘No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him’ (*Jn 6:44*). From the outset, conversion is expressed in faith which is total and radical and which neither limits nor hinders God’s gift. At the same time, it gives rise to a dynamic and lifelong process which demands a continual turning away from ‘life according to the flesh’ to ‘life according to the Spirit’ (cf. *Rom 8:3-13*). Conversion means accepting, by a personal decision, the saving sovereignty of Christ and becoming his disciple.” **Pope John Paul II, *Encyclical Letter Mission of the Redeemer* (1990) 46.**

“Sometimes even Catholics have lost or never had the chance to experience Christ personally: not Christ as a mere ‘paradigm’ or ‘value’, but as the living Lord, ‘the way, and the truth, and the life’ (*Jn 14:6*).” **Pope John Paul II, *L’Osservatore Romano* (English Edition of the Vatican Newspaper), March 24, 1993, p.3.**

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“It is necessary to awaken again in believers a full relationship with Christ, mankind’s only Savior. Only from a personal relationship with Jesus can an effective evangelization develop.” **Pope John Paul II, speech to bishops of Southern Germany, Dec. 4, 1992. *L’Osservatore Romano* (English ed.), Dec. 23/30, 1992, pp. 5-6.**

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