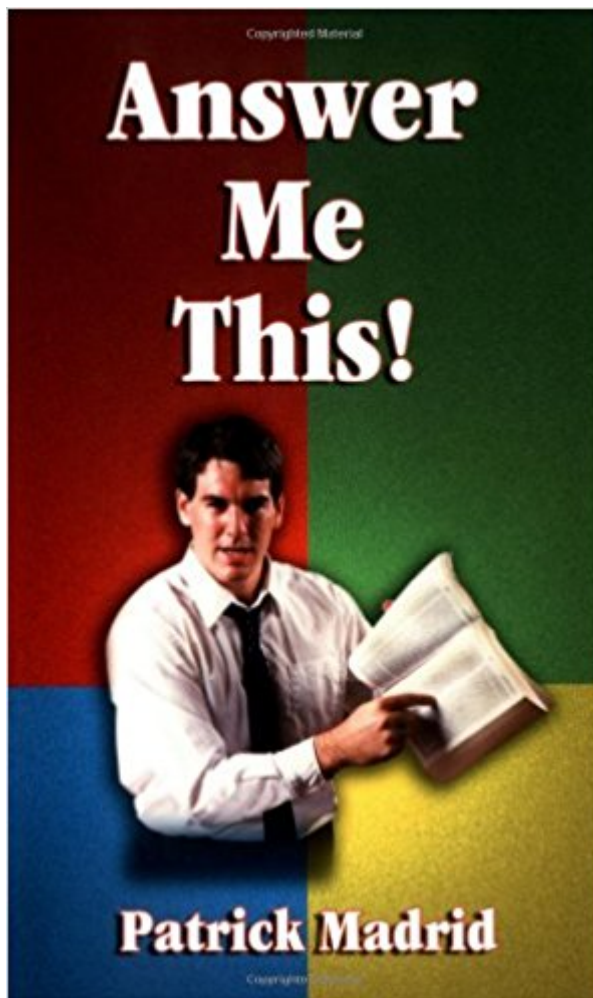


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# Answer Me This!



## Synopsis

When some folks have questions about Catholicism, they're more than merely curious. They want to take a jab at your beliefs as they try to persuade you to accept theirs. Door-to-door proselytizers know what to ask. They know what a lot of Catholics can't answer. Now Patrick Madrid has compiled fifty tough questions Catholics face. They're questions he's been confronted with time and again. And he presents fifty solid, Bible-based, easy-to-understand, and easy-to-explain answers. Here is how to calmly, charitably, and effectively respond. Here are the answers to some questions you may have wondered about yourself!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Patrick Madrid is the president of the Envoy Institute, which publishes the Catholic journal Envoy Magazine. Patrick has authored or edited 20 books on Catholic themes, including Pope Fiction, Search and Rescue, Does the Bible Really Say That? and Envoy for Christ: 25 Years as a Catholic Apologist. He edited and co-authored the multi-volume Surprised by Truth series. His total book sales are approximately 900,000 copies worldwide. Patrick hosts the popular "Patrick Madrid Show," produced by Immaculate Heart Radio, occasionally guest-hosts Catholic Answers Live!, and is a frequent speaker at conferences and parishes.

Patrick Madrid (born 1960), is a Catholic author, TV/radio host on EWTN, apologist, and the publisher of Envoy Magazine; he has written many books such as Search and Rescue: How to Bring Your Family and Friends Into or Back Into the Catholic Church, Where is That in the

Bible?, Why is That in Tradition?, A Pocket Guide to Catholic Apologetics, Pope Fiction: Answers to 30 Myths and Misconceptions About the Papacy, Any Friend of God's Is a Friend of Mine: A Biblical and Historical Explanation of the Catholic Doctrine of the Communion of Saints, etc. He also edited: *Surprised by Truth: 11 Converts Give the Biblical and Historical Reasons for Becoming Catholic*, *Surprised By Truth 2: 15 Men and Women Give the Biblical and Historical Reasons For Becoming Catholic*. (v. 2), and *Surprised by Truth 3: 10 More Converts Explain the Biblical and Historical Reasons for Becoming Catholic* (v. 3) He wrote in the Introduction to this 2003 book, "I am a Catholic apologist, which means I do my best to provide factual, convincing answers to people's questions about Catholicism. This book of Catholic apologetics is designed to show you how to do the same thing: to answer, calmly, charitably, and effectively, many of the tough questions people these days level at Catholics... The title of this book... points us to the heart of a particular challenge the Catholic Church has faced in each of the last twenty centuries... Either you can ignore the question and walk away leaving it unanswered, or you can respond the way St. Peter exhorts us to in situations like this." (Pg. 9-10) He answers the question, "If you died tonight, would you go to heaven?" by saying, "[it] would depend on the condition of my soul when I die... If I'm in a state of grace when I die, I will go to heaven, guaranteed. But if I die in the state of mortal (i.e., deadly) sin---willful and unrepentant rebellion against God---I will go to hell, also guaranteed. As you can guess, I very much want to be in the state of grace when my time comes!" (Pg. 85) He notes, "there is no explicit statement in Scripture---not a single one---that Mary had other children besides the Lord, just as there is no explicit statement---not a single one---that says she did NOT have other children. The Bible speaks of the 'brothers of the Lord.' At best, we must look for the truth amid the implicit statements in Scripture that can help us know the answer to the question: Was Mary perpetually a virgin?... [in Mt 13:55-56] four men are named as the 'brothers' of Christ: James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas... two of these four men ... were actually the sons of another Mary---the wife of Cleopas... This very clearly indicates that just because these men were known as the 'brothers' of the Lord, at least two of them, James and Joseph, were not the sons of Mary, the mother of Jesus." (Pg. 134-136) He explains, "As far as any explicit statement goes, the Bible is silent on whether children should be baptized or not. The implicit evidence in favor of baptizing infants and children, however, is broad and compelling. First, recall that the New Testament Sacrament of baptism replaced the Old Testament ordinance of circumcision... when Christian parents bring their infant son or daughter to be baptized, they are covenanting with God on behalf of that child, and the regenerating grace that comes from the sacrament is infused into that child's soul in spite of his unawareness of what is happening... a child can be reborn into the life of Christ

through grace and not be able to comprehend the gift of grace being bestowed on him." (Pg. 185) He points out, "those verses [2 Cor 5:6 and Phil 1:20-24] do not say or imply that 'to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.' Neither passage in any way 'disproves' the biblical doctrine of purgatory... St. Paul is expressing his desire to be with the Lord in heaven, but he doesn't say that the Christian who dies (i.e., is absent from the body) automatically goes straight to heaven. This is true also of Phillipians 1:20-24... At best, we see Paul grappling with a choice between two good things: going to heaven to be with the Lord or remaining in this life a while longer to continue his ministry in the Church." (Pg. 199-200) This book will be of great interest to students of Catholic apologetics.

This is the perfect book to give to any of your Protestant friends who question your Catholic faith. In it, Patrick Madrid literally takes fifty of the top questions and arguments that Protestants throw at Catholics to debunk their faith and uses solid, extensive Biblical evidence to answer them. In using the Bible as the primary force in each rebuttal, Madrid uses the one weapon that works best when talking to Protestants. Since Catholic Tradition holds little weight in these arguments, Madrid makes mention of them but always goes to great lengths to use the Bible first and foremost. Another reason to give this book to Protestants is that Madrid's writing style is a lot easier to swallow than, say, Karl Keating. Though Keating is definitely one of the best Catholic apologists around, he does sometimes come across as a brutish force when defending his faith. Don't get me wrong, his fire is impressive and necessary, but Madrid manages to get his point across without being as blunt as Keating. Had I read this book before I myself came home to the Church in 2000, it definitely would have been one of the key reasons that I became Catholic. But now I'm glad that I have it to give to any and every person who is interested in the faith. This is an excellent book and I highly recommend it to both Catholics and non-Catholics. It will not only strengthen your faith as a Christian, it will also make you more prepared to take on a barrage of questions about your faith. Another good book to pick up, and the one that did solidify my decision to become Catholic is "Why Do Catholics Do That?" by Kevin Orlin Johnson. Much like Madrid, Johnson takes an easier to swallow approach in answering questions about the faith. It's highly recommend.

This book helps Catholics such as I answer questions people ask about the Church. So many Catholics today are essentially ignorant of their Faith. I recommend this author and this book as an additional aid for the challenges modern-day Catholics face.

Great book; great delivery. Thank you!!

Great book to send with your kids to college to help them defend their faith. You cannot go wrong with anything written by Patrick Madrid! Love his books.

Excellent book!! Put in everyday terms that makes it easy for people to understand.

Short but concise.

Very good book; answers important questions without being too philosophical

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