



Amid ideological noise, religious oversimplifications, and endless debates on social media, there is a short phrase—almost hidden in the liturgy—that contains one of the deepest truths of Christianity:

“Begotten, not made.”

We recite it in the Creed without thinking much about it... yet everything is at stake in it: the identity of Jesus Christ, the truth of the Trinity, and yes, also the unique role of the Virgin Mary.

This article aims to help you discover why this statement is not an abstract formula, but a living key to understanding the faith, defending it clearly, and living it deeply in today’s world.

1. Where does “begotten, not made” come from? A battle for truth

This expression did not arise by chance. It was solemnly formulated at the Council of Nicaea (year 325), in response to one of the most dangerous heresies in history: Arianism.

Arius, a priest from Alexandria, claimed that the Son of God was not eternal, but rather a highly perfect creature, created by God before time. In other words: **Jesus Christ would not truly be God.**

The Church responded with clarity and courage. In the Creed, it proclaimed:

*“God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father.”*

With this, the Fathers of the Church affirmed something decisive:

□ **Jesus Christ is not a creature. He is eternal God.**



2. What does “begotten” mean? A key to understanding the Trinity

The word “begotten” may sound biological or temporal, but in God it does not work that way.

In theological language, it means that the Son proceeds from the Father **from all eternity**, not in time.

Here we encounter one of the most sublime statements of the Gospel:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
(John 1:1)

The Son (the Word) **does not begin to exist**, but **is eternally generated by the Father**.

There is no “before” and “after.”

There is no creation.

There is an eternal relationship.

Essential difference: created vs. begotten

- **Created** → something that did not exist and begins to exist (like the universe or ourselves)
- **Begotten (in God)** → someone who proceeds from another, but fully shares the same nature

That is why the Son is not inferior to the Father.

□ **He is consubstantial (of the same nature).**



3. Why does this change everything?

If Christ were created:

- He could not fully save us
- He could not perfectly reveal God
- He could not be the object of worship

But because He is **true God**:

- His sacrifice has infinite value
- His word is definitive
- His presence in the Eucharist is real and divine

Everything in our faith is at stake here.

4. Mary and the modern scandal: Mother of God or not?

Now we enter a very current issue, especially in dialogue with some Protestants.

Many say:

“Mary cannot be the Mother of God because she did not create God. God already existed.”

This objection may sound logical... but it rests on a deep misunderstanding.



5. The key: Mary is not mother of a nature... but of a Person

The Church, especially at the Council of Ephesus (431), defined that Mary is truly **Theotokos**, that is:

☐ **Mother of God**

Why?

Because **Jesus Christ is one single divine Person (the eternal Son)** with two natures:

- divine (eternal)
- human (assumed in time)

Mary does not generate the divinity (which is eternal), but **she truly gives birth to the Person of the Son in His human nature.**

And that Person... **is God.**

Therefore:

- ☐ She is not mother of “a part” of Christ
- ☐ She is not mother only of His humanity
- ☐ She is mother of the whole Person

And that Person is divine.

6. A simple example to understand it

A human mother does not create the soul of her child (God creates it), yet she is still the mother of the whole person.

In the same way:

- ☐ Mary does not “create” Christ’s divinity
- ☐ But she does give birth to the divine Person made flesh



Therefore:

To deny that Mary is Mother of God breaks the unity of Christ.

7. Clear apologetic response (to Protestant objections)

Objection 1: “God cannot have a mother”

Response:

Correct... **in His eternal divine nature.**

But in the Incarnation:

“*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*”
(John 1:14)

God **assumes a real human nature**, and in that nature He is born of Mary.

□ That is why Mary is the Mother of God made man.

Objection 2: “Mary is only mother of Christ’s humanity”

Response:

This separates Christ into two persons, which is a heresy (Nestorianism).

Christ is not:

- one human person + one divine person

He is:



□ **one single divine Person with two natures**

Therefore, Mary is the mother of that one Person.

Objection 3: “The Bible does not say ‘Mother of God’”

Response:

It affirms the reality, even if it does not use the exact expression.

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaims:

“*And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?*”
(*Luke 1:43*)

“Lord” (Kyrios) is a divine title.

□ Elizabeth recognizes that Mary is the mother of the Lord... that is, of God.

8. Contemporary relevance: more important than ever

In a culture that relativizes truth, reduces Christ to a moral teacher, and trivializes faith, recovering the meaning of “begotten, not made” is urgent.

Because it reminds us that:

- Christ is not just another spiritual leader
- He is not a symbolic figure
- He is not an idea

□ **He is the living, eternal God, incarnate out of love**



And Mary is not a decorative figure.

□ She is the gateway through which God enters history.

9. Practical applications for your spiritual life

This truth is not merely theoretical. It has very concrete consequences:

1. Absolute trust in Christ

If He is God, you can trust Him completely, even in uncertainty.

2. Filial love for Mary

It is not optional or exaggerated—it is deeply Christological.

To love Mary is to acknowledge the reality of the Incarnation.

3. Humility before the mystery

Not everything in God is fully understood, but everything in Him is true.

4. Defending the faith with charity and clarity

In conversations with other Christians, the goal is not to win arguments, but to **illuminate with truth**.

10. Conclusion: a phrase that holds everything together

“Begotten, not made” is not an ancient formula.

It is a living proclamation:



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- Christ is God
- Christ is eternal
- Christ became man
- And He was born of Mary

So every time you pray the Creed, do it with awareness.

Because you are proclaiming something that changed history... and can transform your life:

God did not remain distant.

God became near.

God allowed Himself to be begotten in time... to save you.