

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

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Introduction

The Roman Catholic Church claims to have about one billion members, or 19% of the world's total population; that is relatively the same number of followers of Islam. While it is very singular to know that only few Catholics can recite the Gospel.

Catholicism, in most areas of the world, is largely mixed with the local religion(s).

Most missionaries report that Catholicism is a staunch opponent of Evangelical Christianity. In 1999, for example, Pope John Paul II, told Catholics in Mexico, to "stand fast against the seductive heresies of the Evangelical sects."

Catholicism is the predominant religion on many of the mission fields of the world, including virtually all Latin America, much of Europe, and large portions of Africa.

Catholicism is often deeply ingrained in the culture and customs of its people, so much that it is often believed that to be Mexican (or Italian or Polish) it is equal to be Catholic.

The Roman Catholicism is considered a Heterodoxy.

What is really important or most important in the Roman Catholic Church?

Bible, tradition and the official Church interpretation stay at the same level. Little by little, we will clearly understand why the Roman Catholic Church should be considered a cult.

The most influent people in the Catholic Church are

The Pope
St. Augustine
Alfonso Liquori
Karl Adam

What are the main differences between Evangelical Christians and Catholics?

Evangelical Christians	Roman Catholic Church
Holy Spirit	Sanctifying grace
God's Word	The authority of the Church
Cross	Mass
Grace	Works (Sacraments)

What are the seven Roman Catholic Sacraments and what is their purpose?

They are a tangible vehicles of saving and sanctifying grace, and they are:

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Eucharist
4. Penance
5. Extreme unction (last rites) last anointing

- 6. Marriage
- 7. Holy orders

How does the Catholic view of the role of the sacraments contrast with the biblical teaching regarding how we obtain eternal life?

The Bible clearly says that salvation is by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9 Cfr Galatians 2:21)

If salvation is purely by grace, what is the role of good works?

A Christian does good work because of God’s love in Him. It is not a way to get to Heaven but simply the result of al life transformed by the grace of God through Jesus Christ, who give his love to those who accept Him as Lord and Savior.

What is the Mass, and what is its significance for the Catholic?

At the sacrifice of the mass; Jesus Christ is literally and actually offered up to God for the forgiveness of sins. It is like Christ is still offering Himself at Calvary. This is called transubstantiation.

The explanation of transubstantiation is given as follow: the appearance does not change but the essence has been transformed.

But this is not what the Bible teaches. In fact in Hebrew, from Chapter 7 to 10, it is clearly explained what the sacrificial offering of Christ means. Between these chapters it is said, at least ten times, Jesus was offered once for the sins of the world.

Regarding the “Insufficient atonement” is very important to read:

John 19:30;

Hebrew 7:27; 9:12, 25-28; 10:10, 12-14, 18.

What is the Catholic sacrament of penance, and how is it different from repentance?

The Catholic Church affirms that penance and repentance mean the same thing, but it is not true.

The authoritative definition taken out of Oxford Dictionary asserts:

Penance is the sacrament through which sins committed after baptism are forgiven through the absolution of a priest. (* It involves good works. Penance in front of the priest, praises, rosary....)

Repentance is basically the changing of heart toward God’s direction.

Penance	Repentance
An outward act	Comes from the heart
Imposed by a priest	By the work of the Holy Spirit
Supposed to make sanctification	Acknowledges that nothing we can do can satisfy divine justice

Read also *Colossians 1:24*

What is the Catholic view of Mary, the mother of Jesus?

The Catholic Church put Mary at the same level of Jesus. She is able to control Jesus' character, she is able to calm down or angry Jesus versus the sinners. She represents the central piece of the Catholic Church. But obviously the Bible does not agree with this doctrine (John 14:6; Romans 8:34; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25). Jesus is the only mediator between men and God, there is no one else.

What is the Catholic doctrine of Purgatory, and how would you give a biblical response to it?

First of all, the doctrine of purgatory (place of purging) stands on an apocrypha book, 2 Macc. 12:38-46, but it's very strange that the person who goes to purgatory, which is no hell and no heaven, doesn't know how long he/she does have to stay there. There is no proof in the Bible about this doctrine. In fact this doctrine was introduced in Catholic the dogmas in 1439 at the Council of Florence.

The Bible is absolutely crystal that there is not a third option. The Bible speaks only about hell and heaven, here are some verses: Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:46; John 28:29;

What does the Roman Catholic Church teach regarding the way of salvation and how does it differ with the teaching of the Word of God?

They claim there is no salvation outside Catholic Church. The priest is the only way to salvation, He is like Christ. Obviously the itinerary is pretty long and complicated. A person has to go to the priest, who will contact Mary, who will contact Jesus, who will contact God....! Well!

Again, the Word of God makes this much easier (John 5:24; 20:31; 1 John 5:11-13)

The Catholic Church is distinct in every country where it can be found.

This cult is like a chameleon. It changes from country to country, in order to mix with the local culture(s) and gain proselytes in a much easier way, regardless any tradition that may go against the teaching of the Bible.

How did the Catholic Church become so corrupt?

During the persecution of the Christians in 303 Costantine (250-306) behaved with great humanity. He said that during a battle he saw a cross in the sky and he claimed that the victory he got was from the Christian God. Then most Christians became corrupted and a little while later the Catholic Church had its beginning, mixing tradition, religion and polytheism.

What does the Catholic Church teach regarding the Pope, and on what do they base this belief?

The Catholic Church teaches that the Pope take literally the place of Jesus on earth. He is the infallible teacher of dogmas. He is judged by no one except God. He is vicar of Christ. When the Pope says something from his chair (cathedra), anything, that is infallible. It's like the open Bible. The main titles given to the pope are two: Holy father and the most holy. The acts that Catholic practice versus the Pope are the kissing of his feet and hands.

The Catholic Church says that the Pope has the keys to heaven and has the authority to determine whether or not somebody could get to heaven. Using Matthew 16:13-19, the Catholic Church says that Peter was the first Pope. Peter is the rock in which Christ built the Church, and the keys give Peter authority over the souls.

There are many verses that proof that this doctrine is pure fantasy. Peter himself never put himself in this high position. The authority of the Catholic Church is very strong and influent, but it does not surely come from God.