
“THE CULT OF CATHOLICISM”

ROMAN CATHOLICISM IS A CULT. Some will object to calling this system a cult. Almost one billion people think that it is the true Church. One of the definitions of a cult in the dictionary is: “Obsessive devotion or veneration for a person, principle, or ideal.” Romanism certainly fits that description with its worship of Mary (they say they don’t, but they really do) and its zeal for a system made in Rome, not Heaven. As with other cults, we will examine all things in the light of God’s Word. “TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY: IF THEY SPEAK NOT ACCORDING TO THIS WORD, IT IS BECAUSE THERE IS NO LIGHT IN THEM.” (Isaiah 8:20). Any belief or teaching that is not in accord with Scripture simply cannot be of God. None is further from the Bible than Roman Catholicism.

ROME DISREGARDS THE BIBLE. If you have ever read much that has come out of the Roman Church (as I have done), one thing is very clear; it is very rare to have the Bible quoted. For sixteen hundred years Rome has been adding her own authority. Usually, they practice something for many years and once it is well ingrained, it is made a literal part of the system. There are fifteen spurious books called the “Apocrypha” which Rome has added to her bibles. They were written between Malachi and New Testament times. All have errors or doctrine that contradicts the Scriptures and therefore cannot be the Word of God. The Jews never received them nor did Jesus or His disciples ever quote them. They were not in any Bible before the 4th century. They were added – see Rev. 22:18-19! Rome also accepts tradition as equal to the Bible and the Council of Trent, in 1546, decreed that it was so, saying: “...whosoever knowingly, or of deliberate purpose, despised traditions, should be anathema.” Tradition has spawned such heretical doctrines as papal infallibility, prayers for the dead, purgatory, celibacy of priests, confession, lent, the rosary, canonization of saints, and many more. Common sense (which is not so common) tells us that God cannot possibly contradict Himself. You can believe God or you can believe Rome.

SOME FALSE DOCTRINES OF ROME. I can only deal with a few of the very basic ones here. I doubt if I could even list all of them in a paper such as this. There are so many, and they are of such a serious nature, that the truth is Roman Catholicism is no more Christian than Mormonism or Jehovah’s Witnesses. That is a strong statement but examine the doctrines of Rome and the teaching of Scripture.

ROME AND THE MASS. It is no secret that this is the central point of their worship. It is a bloodless sacrifice (at least as far as the people go, for they get only the wafer, no wine). They teach that the priest changes the bread into the actual body of Christ and the wine into his blood. This requires a monstrous distorting of Scripture. It is very clear that John 6 (where they get this twisted doctrine) has nothing to do with the Lord’s Table. It was not introduced until two or three years later. Would Jesus tell them to drink His blood when he had forbidden blood to both Old and New Testament believers? The Council of Trent states: “The sacrifice (in the mass) is

identical with the sacrifice on the cross.” The Liturgy of Vatican II says: “For it is the liturgy through which, especially in the living sacrifice of the Eucharist, the work of redemption is accomplished.” Ligouri, the celebrated Catholic theologian, says: “We are struck with wonder when we find that in obedience to the words of His priest (This is My Body) – God Himself descends on the altar, that He comes when ever they call Him...and places Himself in their hands, even though they should be His enemies. And after having come, he remains entirely at their disposal...” I say that is the utmost blasphemy! Hundreds of millions of Roman Catholics believe that, but I believe God. “FOR BY ONE OFFERING HE HATH PERFECTED FOR EVER THEM THAT ARE SANCTIFIED.” (Heb. 10:14). There never has been a sacrifice since Calvary that God has accepted. “THERE IS NO MORE OFFERING FOR SIN.” (Heb. 10:18). When Jesus cried, “IT IS FINISHED,” that is exactly what He meant.

THE WORSHIP OF MARY. I have an item put out by the Knights of Columbus, which says that Catholics do not worship Mary. That is a lie invented for public consumption. There are at least 60-70 former Roman Catholics in our Church who will tell you that, in reality, they did worship Mary and that it is encouraged. Never mind the semantics of three kinds of worship for it is but a charade. Ligouri says in his book “The Glories of Mary” that “The holy church...commands a worship peculiar to Mary.” He further states, “Sinners receive pardon by Mary alone...He fails and is lost who has not recourse to Mary...Our salvation is in the hands of Mary...AT THE COMMAND OF MARY ALL OBEY – EVEN GOD...” The Roman Church teaches her own heretical doctrines about Mary such as The Immaculate Conception (she was born without sin; even though she called God her Saviour), Bodily Assumption (that her body was taken to Heaven; not discovered until 1800 years after the fact), that she remained a perpetual virgin (though her other children are named in Matt. 13), that she is the Mediatrix and the Queen of Heaven. Pope Leo XIII said, “The Catholic Church has always...put all her hope and trust in the Mother of God.” That term itself is blasphemous. Pope Pius XI said that Jesus made “His mother the advocate for sinners and the dispenser and Mediatrix of His grace.” But listen to the Word of God! Jesus said, “I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME.” (John 14:6). “FOR THERE IS ONE GOD, AND ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MEN, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS.” (I Tim. 2:5). “NEITHER IS THERE SALVATION IN ANY OTHER: FOR THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN, WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED.” (Acts 4:12). Among other things the present Pope (John Paul II) has done, he has dedicated the whole world to Mary—not Christ. I recently read that in Rome someone counted 123 Roman Catholic Churches dedicated to Mary and only 15 to Jesus. How pitiful that millions have no hope, for the Word of God offers hope only to those who put their faith in God’s Son and His death on the cross.

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OTHER FALSE DOCTRINES BRIEFLY NOTED. It is not that these things are inconsequential, but I have only a limited space here. They are serious.

PURGATORY. This is purely a fictional place and, in fact, has been borrowed from Greek mythology. One can find no trace whatever in either Old or New Testament. They supposedly find it in II Maccabees, but it is not even there. The Word of God declares, “IT IS APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE, BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT.” (Heb 9:27). For the true child of God: “ABSENT FROM THE BODY (IS) PRESENT WITH THE LORD.” (II Cor. 5:8). As many have said, including a host of converted priests, since the pope and his priests have the power to alleviate suffering, why don’t they empty this awful place? They also answer: MONEY!

INDULGENCES. This is closely linked to the above. The Baltimore Catechism says, “An indulgence is the remission in whole or in part of the temporal punishment due to sin.” This is supposedly done on the basis of all the stored up good the church has through saints, Mary, and Jesus. Luther wrote his 95 Thesis against the open sale of these and other abuses. They have and still do provide vast sources of revenue for the Church. No one can forgive sins but God (“WHO CAN FORGIVE SINS BUT GOD ONLY?”) and no mortal can pay for them.

THE CONFESSIONAL. What wickedness it is to teach and to believe that a man can forgive sins. Listen to Charles Chiniquy who was 50 years a Roman Catholic, 25 of them a priest. “With a blush on my face, and regret in my heart, I confess before God and man, that I have been, through the confessional, plunged for 25 years in that bottomless sea of iniquity in which the blind priests of Rome have to swim day and night. I had to learn by heart the infamous questions which the church of Rome forces every priest to learn. I had to put these impure, immoral questions to women and girls who were confessing their sins to me.”

Because I have a couple of items that will require some space, I have no time to expound on the errors such as: The Church being built on Peter rather than on Christ, the seven sacraments, penance, images (idols), rosary, relics, celibacy, and many others. When any or all of these are examined in the light of Scripture, it is not difficult to see that this is in fact no Christian system at all. The truly sad thing is that most Catholics have been so indoctrinated that they will not take time to “SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES.”

THE INFALLIBILITY OF THE POPE. Though it has been used in principle for well over 1,000 years, in 1870 the Vatican Council proclaimed the pope to be infallible when speaking from his pastoral office. Now, Peter never thought of himself as pope or infallible. Long after Pentecost the apostle Paul had

to sharply rebuke him for his sin and duplicity. History reveals this doctrine to be a hoax, for not only have popes erred, they have sinned, lied, cheated, committed simony, etc. At one time in the 1400’s there were three men claiming to be pope (they were voted by the cardinals) at the same time. Many reliable sources show this pet belief to be a sham. Zozimus said Pelagius was an orthodox teacher and Augustine fought all his life against the man’s teaching. Honorius taught that Christ only of one nature therefore, denying either his divine or human nature. Hadrian II declared civil marriages to be valid; Pius VII said they were not. Eugene IV condemned Joan of Arc as a witch; Benedict XV made her a saint. Hundred of similar cases could be cited. The papacy has been blighted by sin and corruption over and over again. The papacy has been bought and sold; many popes had illegitimate children (some later holding the office). The pope gave credence to Jefferson Davis and supported the South in our Civil War, so it is no wonder the pope supported Hitler and Mussolini. The Vatican is one of the wealthiest institutions (if not the wealthiest) in the world. The chief Vatican banker cannot leave the Vatican grounds for fear of being picked up by the Italian authorities for fraud and practically toppling the wealthiest bank in the land. Many reliable sources reveal all of this and much, much more.

THE ROMAN CHURCH AND SALVATION. Simply put, Rome has a system of works, dead works, for they cannot save one soul. We have already seen they really look to Mary to save them, but this is impossible. They teach there is no salvation outside the Roman Church, though publicly they deny it. In the Syllabus of Errors, Pope Pius IX said, “The eternal salvation of any outside the true Church of Christ is not even to be hoped for.” And salvation is based on keeping the sacraments of the Church. I have a book of Roman Catholic doctrine that says, “Baptism is necessary for the salvation of all men.” It also says, “Indulgences will enable us to pay off part of our debt to God.” ROMAN CATHOLIC SALVATION IS CLEARLY OF WORKS – SCRIPTURE SAYS, “NOT OF WORKS LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST.” (Eph. 2:8-9). NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE...” (Titus 3:5).

GOD’S WARNING ABOUT ROME. First of all, He says that it is not His Church but a Harlot, a counterfeit. “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” (Rev. 17:5). In verse 9 He reveals that it is the City of seven hills, and in verse 18 the City that reigned over the world in the Apostle John’s day. HIS FINAL WORD – Rev. 18:4: “COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE, THAT YE BE NOT PARTAKERS OF HER SINS, AND THAT YE RECEIVE NOT OF HER PLAGUES.”

We have a number of good books on this very important subject; write to us.

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