

Historical Split Between Roman Catholicism & the Christ of the Scripture: Man's Word

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What is the basis of Truth?

By Larry Wessels

Bible Text: John 3:3-8; Romans 8:1-17

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Greetings and welcome to our program. I'm Larry Wessels, Director of Christian Answers. I'm here with a very special guest who I really want to take the time to introduce to you, Rob Zins. Rob, great to have you here, brother.

Rob Zins. Thank you, Larry. Good to be here again.

Larry. Now a lot of people don't really know who you are, although I've known you for decades, but just to let our YouTube viewers out there get a good idea of who you are, I'd like you to take some time and explain the books you have written. Now you are a former Roman Catholic yet you graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary. In fact, I think your degree is in history.

Rob. Historical theology, right.

Larry. Historical theology. So with that said and for the sake of our viewers who don't really know who you are and there are going to be a lot of people like that, I'd like you to kind of begin with some of the books you've written, some of the pamphlets, things, talk about your ministry and maybe your website, and then I'll just throw in my two cents worth whenever I get a chance. Go ahead.

Rob. Okay, well, thank you, Larry. It's good to be here. Actually after graduating from Dallas Seminary it was my intention to go into the pastoral ministry and to become involved in local church work, which I think is probably what most of the men who graduate from seminary want to do, but having been in the pastoral ministry for several years and having come to some idea through my studies about the great Protestant Reformation, I was concerned a little bit about the disposition of evangelicals toward the Roman Catholic religion. Now I was raised in the Roman Catholic religion and went through catechism and confirmation and so forth, but I left the Roman Catholic religion and was kind of free-floating and ultimately came to Christ through reading the Scriptures and having been witnessed to by some Christians a little bit later on in life. And after going to seminary and being a part of pastoral ministry, I began to notice that there was a shift taking place in our nation that more and more evangelicals, more and

more articles and books were being written favoring the Roman Catholic religion and sort of building this large tent and including not only Roman Catholicism but a number of other non-Christian religions under this tent. So I began looking around for books that may address this issue and they weren't too many books out there, and I came across one book in particular written in the early fifties by a man named Lorraine Bettner, and at that time Dr. Bettner had written a standard work on the Roman Catholic religion but it was outdated, and along about that same time, a Roman Catholic writer wrote a book, an apologetic book wherein he set about to do what the book says, debunk Lorraine Bettner, in other words, to disprove all that Lorraine Bettner was saying about the Roman Catholic religion.

Larry. Are you talking about Karl Keating?

Rob. Karl Keating, right, Karl Keating's book. So I read Keating's book and read Bettner's book again and I asked the question almost out loud, "Has anyone answered Keating?"

Larry. Now he started Catholic Answers.

Rob. He did. He started Catholic Answers in San Diego and no one at that time had given a direct answer to Karl Keating so I decided, well, let's give it a try, and that's when I wrote my very first book and this book is entitled "Romanism: The Relentless Roman Catholic Assault on the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Now it's a long title, "Romanism: The Relentless Roman Catholic Assault on the Gospel of Jesus Christ," but it's a purposeful title. This book goes through every single chapter of Karl Keating's work and analyzes the Roman Catholic position on virtually every aspect of their religion. We have in this book a chapter on baptism, penance, purgatory, the Eucharist, the Mass, the place of Peter, invoking the dead, Mary, justification, the so-called charge of professional anti-Catholics, and a final chapter on the changing face of Rome due to Vatican II. So this book was written in response to a very strong Roman Catholic writer and that actually began the ball rolling to have a more full-orbed, ongoing ministry to the Roman Catholic community.

But as you know, in 1994, a statement came out called ECT, Evangelicals and Catholics Together, where a number of prominent evangelicals actually signed a document essentially endorsing the Roman Catholic religion. This document came as quite a shock to the evangelical community. It still has a rippling effect to our day.

Larry. I think it was signed by like Bill Bright of Campus Crusade, J. I. Packer.

Rob. J. I. Packer and a number of people, and that led me to write my second book. My second book is entitled "On the Edge of Apostasy," subtitled, "The Evangelical Romance with Rome." This book is extremely important because we analyze the modern evangelical thought patterns of those who would want to convince us that the Roman Catholic religion is just another branch or form of Christianity, and did a lot of research, it's well footnoted, and I just spent a lot of time trying to answer the question why would

evangelicals ever think that the Roman Catholic religion is, in fact, a Christian religion and should be considered as an alternative worshiping community to Christianity. And having written this book, I got into all kinds of trouble because it flies in the face of the modern thinking of ecumenism. So this deals with the ecumenical movement and a number of broad organizations, and we have it available from a number of various websites.

Larry. Could you briefly mention a few of your other references before we...

Rob. Yes, we realize that a lot of people don't like to read long books so we have written short books and this booklet right here is a book that we've sent all over the world. It's entitled "Salvation by Grace through Faith Alone or by Grace through Sacraments," and this is a very concise analysis of the Roman Catholic sacramental system and it's not too hard to read, it's not too long, it's direct and we think we hit the point very well. But for those who like to read booklets, we have written a tiny little booklet that we do send out a lot, it's called, "I'm a Christian, You are a Roman Catholic, So What is the Big Deal?" And this also has been translated into Spanish as well, and I like to remind you that we do send these booklets over to Spanish-speaking nations and peoples.

Larry. In fact, we made a Spanish video on that and it is on YouTube.

Rob. Now, the audio is on YouTube. So between the larger works, the medium works and the smaller works, this is a sampling of the kinds of things that we use to help Roman Catholics understand their own religion and also to help evangelicals understand the Roman Catholic religion and in doing so, I think you'll have to agree at the end of the day that the Roman Catholic religion is a religion unto itself, and it uses in some cases many Christian terms but defines them with a completely non-Christian dictionary. That's the way I like to say it.

Larry. I would like to mention also that for those of you out there that may not be familiar with our YouTube channel page, CAnswersTV, you're seeing it right now on your screen, but you may not have noticed that if you look at our channel page and you go down a little bit, on the page you'll find that we list several websites, biblequery.org, muslimhope.com, historycart.com, bereanbeacon.org, pilgrimpublishings.com, and then there's one right after that called cwrc-rz.org, now does that sound familiar to you, Rob?

Rob. It certainly does. That's our website, Larry, cwrc-rz.org, and if you come to our website and scroll through it, there are tons of articles and information on how you can get these books and pamphlets and we'd love to hear from you. You can email me and order anything you want off the website.

Larry. I'd also like to mention to our viewers that if you're on our channel page, you'll notice we have 19 playlists that go down the right-hand side of the page on all kinds of subjects. The third one down is on Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons, and Seventh-day Adventists and so forth, but as you get way down in there, you find Roman Catholicism. You're seeing on the screen this is our playlists on Roman Catholicism. At the time we

did this video, we had 79 videos, we've got more now, but by the time you're seeing this. But as you're looking at this, you see that we have all these videos and Rob is in quite a few of these videos. Rob, as people are looking at this, they see here that there's a Boston College debate, and what happened in that particular video, for instance?

Rob. Well, the Boston College debate was a debate that centered around the authority of the Pope at Rome. Essentially it was our duty and privilege to debate two Roman Catholic scholars on stage at Boston College and they presented the Roman Catholic persuasion on the Pope at Rome who is considered to be the Vicar of Christ on earth, and we did everything we could to refute their understanding, and also to present the biblical Christian understanding of the person of Peter. So that's the very kind of thing that we do and we have it on videotape and anybody who's interested in the difference between what a Roman Catholic scholar would present about their own religion and about the Pope at Rome, and the contrasting view, the antithetical view actually, the opposite view of biblical Christianity, that would be a good debate to watch.

Larry. All right now, I want to mention on our playlist we have our 16 hour video series with Rob and me that we did like 20 years ago, but that covers the whole orb of all the teachings and doctrines of the Roman Catholic religion, and then we've got all kinds of other videos that Rob and me have done as well as your debate with the Monsignor, for instance. That was interesting. He was basically saying you could believe anything and it doesn't really matter.

I'm letting everyone know that we have many many videos. One last thing I want to say is if you type "Rob Zins," that's r-o-b z-i-n-s into the YouTube search box, you'll get a whole plethora of Rob Zins videos that are available on YouTube, and if you were to type "Rob Zins Romanism," once again you'll get even more Rob Zins videos in a plethora of videos available. As you can see these things, there are just some samples there on your screen.

But with that said, we just wanted to call your attention to all the resources that are available through this brother in Christ here, former Roman Catholic, who was saved by a supernatural act of God. That's really the difference in a real Christian who has been born again, John 3:3 through 8, through a work of, a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit over just getting baptized, or doing all these sacraments, or things of that nature. We're talking about what makes you a real Christian is a supernatural act of God on your behalf where before you were dead in your sins and trespasses, behold, now you are alive in Christ, and that's really what changed your life.

Rob. Amen.

Larry. All right, brother, with that said, we're going to go into, this is just a promo leading into a main video, so thank you for joining us for this little information situation discussing Rob, and I hope you enjoy the video to come. God bless you all.

Christian Answers of Austin, Texas
Presents
Roman Catholic History: Proves how false Romanism really is.

With Rob Zins, a Christian witness to Roman Catholicism
&
Larry Wessels, Director of Christian Answers

Larry Wessels. We're doing a special show today on Roman Catholicism. Now we've done quite a few shows on Roman Catholicism over the decades. You can go to our YouTube channel page, CAnswersTV, and find over 80 videos on Roman Catholicism by the time you see this video. But anyway, helping me in this broadcast for this particular subject is our resident expert on Roman Catholicism, speaker and author and former Roman Catholic, Rob Zins. Good to have you here, brother.

Rob. Thank you, Larry. Nice to be here.

Larry. Yes, here we go again on yet another show on this subject. I don't know how many shows we have to do on this that make an impression on anybody but we keep trying, don't we?

Rob. We do. The battle rages, doesn't it?

Larry. It's sort of like climbing Mount Olympus that never ends. We just keep climbing and climbing but it just seems like we never get to the top but we just keep trying. That's all we can do, you know? By the grace of God, you know?

Okay, today we're going to cover a subject, Rob, on Roman Catholicism, another angle on it. We've done so many angles but here's another one. So many times I'm dealing with Roman Catholics who rather than putting all their faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone and having him alone as their only mediator and Savior, they are trusting instead in the Roman Catholic institution or religion with all its sacraments, they're trusting that as their Savior because they say history, church history makes that the one and only true church because, after all, Peter was the first pope and through the succession of other popes and everything, church history, you know, Karl Keating of Catholic Answers and all the stuff by other Roman Catholic apologists, history, church history proves Roman Catholicism is the true church, and so if I'm going to be saved, I've got to be in that church in order to have my salvation. So it's not so much faith alone, in Christ alone, it's faith in the current pope and the whole religious structure built on this history they're always referring to.

Rob. Right, that's true.

Larry. And so I want to do a video that kind of deals with this history aspect. Now we've already got several videos, we did one on William Webster, you know, at the church of Rome at the bar of history, that's a great one. We get into a lot of this. We've done other debates and things where we get into a lot of history, but anyone that wants to know more

about that can go to our playlists on Roman Catholicism on our YouTube channel page, as I'll keep referencing to. But here we are going to do a specific run-through of some of their history based on the chart that will be appearing on their screen. You and me are going to be reading through it and just making our own comments as we not only read what's on the pamphlet but any other little two cents worth we want to throw in.

Rob. Absolutely.

Larry. And so why don't we just begin right now, then, with that, and people at home are seeing the lead off chart which says, "The Split between Roman Catholicism and Christ." And as you can see, the column off to one side, the left-hand side it says, "The Original Christian Church," and what we're doing is we're taking you through the span of time and then you see how you've got the original Christian church going back to the early Christian church, and I wanted to mention also that we have done an 18 part series on early Christian church history which is available on our YouTube, not Rob and me but Steve Morrison, our director of research and myself, in fact, we even produced a website called www.historycart.com covering early church history before the Council of Nicaea. So we've proven in that 18 part video that's on YouTube right now, that this Roman Catholicism that we're seeing around us today in the 21st century has nothing to do with the early Christian church, and we prove by the early Christian church writers that that's actually the case. Anyway, that's there. That's just another little plug for some of our other videos that we've done.

Rob. Good.

Larry. So this video that we're doing here is not the only thing that we have on church history pertaining to Roman Catholicism and history, but I think it needs a lot of attention just because so many Roman Catholics are basing their faith on this Church that supposedly is historically reliable, which we are out to prove is not.

Rob. Right.

Larry. They should just forget all this Roman Catholic history and put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as presented in the Scriptures, the holy Bible, and there's plenty of evidence for that.

But anyway, getting back to this chart. We see here from what you're seeing, you have this breakoff from the original church going back to the first century before the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. You see here in 523, we have this doctrine of purgatory coming along, and 754 temporal power, 847 A.D. Decretals of Isidore, 858 Donation of Constantine, 1075 greatest mass divorce in history forced upon clergy by Gregory VII., and I could read through all of that but since we're going to cover it all in detail as we go through the chart, but that's basically what this breakoff is as you see on our initial chart.

There's a question at the bottom of this which says, "Which would you choose, man's word or God's word?" And it's our position that you should always choose God's word

and not man's word, and even Jesus made that pretty obvious in Matthew 15. For anyone that's out there, pull out your Bible, check that out when you have the time, and read what Jesus said about the traditions of men.

Okay, now, Rob, you're our expert here. Basically I'm going to read the Roman Catholic convention that took place, and then I'd like you to kind of elaborate on the scriptural references and things on the other side of the column as our viewers at home can see what we're seeing, and then you can make any comments along the line. You don't have to read everything verbatim but you can play off what you're reading there and say anything you like. When you're done, I'll then go to the next point and go from there.

Okay, here in the year 593 A.D., we have this doctrine of purgatory. Rome invented purgatory. "It is of faith that there is a place we call purgatory, where petty faults or the temporal punishment due to sin are expiated." And that's by Cardinal O'Connell of Boston, "The Catholic Church, the True Church of the Bible," page 178. Okay, Rob, could you pick up what the people are now seeing what's on the other side of that column and you can kind of just elaborate a little bit here.

Rob. Well, in order for there to be a purgatory, there must be a reason for purgatory, and the reason the Roman Catholic religion gives for purgatory is that punishment due sins yet remains after death. So in the Roman Catholic religion, the sins of the Roman Catholic are actually follow or chase them into this place call purgatory and then in purgatory, it used to be terrible suffering, terrible pain, fire licking at the body constantly, that was the picture presented by the old Catholic theologians. Now they've toned that down a little bit and they call it a place of catharsis, a place of cleaning, and so forth and so on. But look, the idea of it is that you have sins that you have to pay for in purgatory.

Larry. The blood of Christ wasn't enough to pay.

Rob. The blood of Christ wasn't enough, and we look at the passages in the New Testament, "There is now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus. For by one offering He has perfected forever them that are sanctified." We know from the New Testament, Larry, that the death of Jesus Christ was sufficient to pay the penalty for all sins past, present and future. So if we as Christians are in Christ, we are covered by the blood of Christ. It's his atonement that satisfies the wrath of God. It's his atonement that enables us to be reconciled with God. It's his atonement that redeems us from the marketplace of sin and puts us in right relationship. To say that there is more that we must do in the case that there was something that we were doing on earth and didn't complete and now we must complete it in a place called purgatory. Well, that's just the opposite of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the testimony of God's word. God's word says, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." And by the way, the Apostle Paul says, "I want to be found in Christ not having a righteousness of my own." Nothing that I can boast about or brag about our say, "Now look here, God, I paid for that sin, or I suffered for that sin, or I took purgatory on board and I am exonerated from that sin." I, I, I. You see, the Bible knows nothing of this. The Bible knows only one thing, "It's appointed unto men once to die, after this the judgment."

You're either in Christ or you're out of Christ. If you're out of Christ, there's no hope for you. If you're in Christ, heaven awaits because the blood of Christ covers all of your sins.

Larry. Are you saying that Roman Catholic indulgences won't do anything to help you get out of purgatory or get you into heaven?

Rob. Oh, what a wonderful man-made religion it is, isn't it? I mean, Larry, if you and I could invent a religion, we might invent the religion of Rome because it's a perpetual money supply. Look at it this way, if you have a grandfather who dies, he didn't live a perfect life, the priest didn't get to him for last rites because he died in a field somewhere while plowing a field, and so, okay, the priest tells you he's in purgatory and how long will he suffer there, you say? The priest says, "Well, we never know these things. God knows." Well, is it a day or two? Think he's out by now? "Hey, I'm not going to make any guesses," the priest says, "but I'll tell you what we can shorten the time. You can buy an indulgence to shorten the time. Are you interested in that?" I sure am. How much? How much? "Well, I can say a Mass for him. You know, give me \$100 and I'll say a Mass for him. We'll shorten the time that way as well." Have you ever heard of anything more antichrist than this? And that's purgatory, Larry, and it's just so preposterous.

Larry. It reminds me of the book of Acts with Simon the sorcerer, I think it's Acts 8. I might be off, I'm just going off memory, but anyway, he wants to buy something with money after he sees the apostles laying on of hands. Remember what Peter told Simon the sorcerer?

Rob. Yeah. Yeah.

Larry. What did he say?

Rob. Yeah, [unintelligible] I mean,...

Larry. That's right. "May your money...

Rob. ... perish with you."

Larry. That's right. He basically told him, you know, he'd go to hell, basically for that kind of attitude.

Rob. Purgatory among other things is built upon a Roman Catholic superstructure that Christ's death is not sufficient and faith alone in Christ's death is never sufficient. So you've got Christ alone, faith alone in Christianity, and you have Christ plus, and faith plus in Roman Catholicism.

Larry. It's almost a perfect satanic battle plan. If you were the devil and you wanted to make something look as close to the real thing as possible but yet at the same time destroy the actual meaning of the Gospel.

Rob. How about giving hope where there is no hope and have somebody pay you for it?

Larry. That's right. That's right.

Rob. We're in the wrong business.

Larry. Yep. Okay, now we're moving to 847 A.D., the Decretals of Isidore. Okay, the decretals are a collection of papal letters of 33 popes gathered by one Isidore from Sylvester I, 314-335, to Gregory II, 715-731. The official addition of the "Corpus Juris," official canon law, in 1580 still declared them to be genuine. The purpose of the decretals throughout was to secure the power of the Roman Catholic Bishop, including the Bishop of Rome. These documents were first approved forgeries by Erasmus, died in 1536, and Charles du Moulin, died in 1556, a Roman Catholic canonist who joined the Reformation. Sample rules include a layman can bring no charge against a bishop. A cleric can never bring a charge against his superior. Condemnation of a bishop requires 72 witnesses. A bishop may be neither accused nor condemned before a secular tribunal. Then there is much more information here. The viewers at home can pause the video and try to read the rest of this if they so desire, but for the sake of time, I'll just leave it at that and let Rob make some comments here before we move on to the next point.

Rob. Yeah, I would encourage the reader to go to a Catholic encyclopedia and look up the Isidorian Decretals because this is a fascinating case. This man wanted to solidify the power and authority of the Bishops and the Pope at Rome and the Cardinals as well. So what he did was he forged together, he pasted together a document and he maintained that this document had long been a part of the Roman Catholic religion and it was actually a compilation of letters from 33 popes. So he took snippets of these letters and he made it into these decretals or these letters and these documents and he pawned it off as genuine. Well, what pope would not want to read this? Everything in it, everything in the decretals points toward the power, the authority, the inescapable conclusion of the decretals was that you'd better not mess with the pope because he has the upper hand in virtually everything. It's all tilted toward papal power.

What you see in this is that these decretals are said to have originated in the first part of the fourth century and it's not until the sixteenth century that they are declared to be forgeries. What about all those centuries in between where these poor people had to subscribe to these various rules and regulations from these decretals. One pope I see here, Pope Nicholas in the ninth century pretended that these texts were contained in the archives of the Roman Catholic Church just so he could lend veracity to what was written in them to strengthen his position.

Well, this whole thing is completely ludicrous as any sane person... Even Roman Catholics today admit that this is one big hoax and one big forged document, but do we not pity those who had to live underneath this lie for not just one or two years, hundreds of years.

Larry. Supposedly infallible true Christian Church that's the only people on the planet that have the truth.

Rob. Exactly. Yeah, yeah, so, I mean, what can you say about this? The whole thing is bogus and we don't live under it, we never have, we never will. We're not Roman Catholic, we'll never be, but these poor Roman Catholics who have to live with this sort of stuff and then they have to sweep it under the rug.

Larry. And it proves that their history has bogus stuff in it which proves that their system is bogus. But anyway, let's go to the next thing. 858 A.D., Donation of Constantine. Okay, another forgery upon which Roman Catholicism was built. The "Donation" is a spurious document of Emperor Constantine the Great, addressed to the Pope Sylvester I, 314-335, purporting to bestow upon the Pope, among other gifts, the following privileges and possessions. The Bishop of Rome as successor of St. Peter is to have the primacy over the four bishops of Antioch, Alexandria, Constantinople, and Jerusalem, also over all the bishops in the world. The Lateran Basilica at Rome built by Constantine, shall surpass all churches as their head. The Bishop of Rome shall enjoy the same honorary rights as the Emperor, among them the right to wear an imperial crown, a purple cloak, and a tunic, and in general all imperial insignia or signs of distinction. Then it goes on and on about the Emperor and stuff, basically just making the Pope like another Emperor and over everybody. So go ahead, what do you have to say there?

Rob. All right, this is probably the most infamous document of all time. It's called the Donation of Constantine and the idea behind it was there's a forged document that claimed that Emperor Constantine bequeathed all these things to the Roman Catholic religion. The Bishop of Rome and successor of Peter is to have the primary over all other bishops in the district, Antioch, Alexandria, Constantinople, and Jerusalem. The Pope at Rome now has authority over those bishops, okay? Constantine supposedly gave this as a donation to the Roman Catholic religion.

The Lateran Basilica at Rome built by Constantine, shall surpass all churches as their head. No other building can be built greater than this one building owned by Constantine, donated to the Church.

But here's the big one, okay? The Emperor makes a present to the Bishop of Rome and his successors of the Lateran Palace of all the provinces of the city of Rome and all the provinces, districts and towns of Italy and Western territories. Furthermore, the Emperor has established in the East a new capital which bears his name, Constantinople, because it is inconvenient that a secular government have power where God has established residence of the head of the Christian religion. In other words, the document says that Constantine was willing to lift up his government, establish a new government in a city named after him because it was inconvenient for the state to have a government next to so powerful a government established by God. Now who wouldn't like this if you were a Roman Catholic Pope? Now Constantine essentially is said to have made the Pope at Rome equal to in power as the Emperor...

Larry. But this is all a forgery. It was all a forgery.

Rob. Yes. It's all a lie. It's all a lie.

Larry. And that would violate one of the 10 Commandments about bearing false witness. Jeremiah, you know, says there in chapter 5, verse 31, as you can see on the chart that you are not to prophesy falsely, and Jesus said in Matthew 5:19, "Whosoever shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven." They are basically using fraud and lies to establish their power.

Rob. Right. And it has been proven to be a forgery. No Roman Catholic holds this as truth, but they are not given back what was given to them. They're not going to rewrite history. They're not going to back off of this. So for a period of time, this became the singular document of power and authority given to them by Augustine, said to have been written in the fourth century, and still affirmed in the sixteenth century. Larry, that's 1,200 years of a lie and the popes gain power, power, power.

Larry. It's politics.

Rob. It's no conspiracy theory, it's fact. They did it.

Larry. Right, and it's just for political power but within a religious framework.

Rob. Right, but we know what the Bible has to say about all this, absolutely condemns it.

Larry. Of course. And now let's go on to the year 1075 A.D., greatest mass divorce in history forced upon clergy by Gregory VII. Celibacy. Okay, Gregory VII declared all clerical marriages invalid. "Our judgment upon marriages contracted by persons of this kind, the clergy, is that they must be broken." First Lateran Council, 1123, Canon XXI.

Now here you've got apparently all these clergy were married up until that point. There were a lot of married clergyman and there was no celibacy until the year 1075. That's a thousand years supposedly from when Peter was walking the earth as a Pope, and then all of a sudden he declares that you can't, you've got to get divorced, and we know in Malachi God says in that Old Testament prophet, he hates divorce. But anyway, here's Gregory doing this. What are your comments?

Rob. Well, probably Gregory annulled them. He probably said they are hereby annulled, meaning that they never took place. It wasn't a real marriage. It can't be because these priests of ours are committed to Jesus Christ and they made a terrible mistake by thinking that they could add to that commitment a wife, taking on a wife. So, yeah, the language is massaged the same way it is today when they annul marriage, but it really is a divorce.

Larry. Yeah, now what is he going to do about all the ones the past thousand years that were married?

Rob. As far as I know, they didn't dig up their bones and burn them, but I'm not surprised. I mean, this is so ludicrous. Why did he do it? That's the question and if you're a Roman Catholic, you ask the question why did he do this? I mean, what was he thinking? Well, here's what he was thinking. He's a strong pope, one of the strongest popes, okay, and he saw his religion just rife with sexual immorality, harlotry, concubines, taking of wives, and all this sexual activity. The loyalty that he wanted from his priests was being compromised but in order for us to have a strong religion, a strong Roman Catholic religion, and to have influence upon the states surrounding us, we cannot have a divided loyalty. It has to be undivided loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ and to his Vicar on earth, and that would be the Pope, Gregory VII.

So he en masse set down in order, if you are married, you are no longer married, and if you want to keep your wife, you give up your priesthood. It's as simple as that. Well, obviously these guys had no other way of making a living, they have no way of surviving, and to take away their priesthood is to take away their stipend and take away the house, take away their jobs, and also when the pope at Rome says you're no longer committed to Christ, what are you going to do, defy him? No, you're not. That would await one Martin Luther who would stand up and defy him. But this is all building to that.

Larry. And I noticed that Peter, the first pope as they say, was married.

Rob. Right.

Larry. And then you have all these other guys married for a thousand years.

Rob. Right.

Larry. He comes up with this as a way to consolidate more power.

Rob. Right.

Larry. It's just a political move. It has nothing to do with the Scriptures because the Bible says, particularly when Paul is talking about the elders in the church in 1 Timothy, he says, "Let the elder be the husband of one wife."

Rob. And by the way, many, many priests kept their wives and families. They left the priesthood. They said, "We'll do something else." And they argue from the very passages.

Larry. Right, right, because the Bible makes it clear you can be married.

Rob. It's better if you are.

Larry. Yeah, it's better so you don't burn.

Rob. Right.

Larry. And obviously this doctrine of demons, as is mentioned in 1 Timothy, for they forbid marriage, is called a doctrine of demons because it does lead, if you're forbidden from something that so natural, that's why they end up having, you know, all these extra escapades going on behind the scenes to try to make up for all those urges.

Rob. Exactly.

Larry. Well, anyway, let's move on to the year 1100 A.D., money for Masses. Okay, money, "The practice of giving the priest a money alms for a Mass dates from the seventh or eighth century, and became a universal practice in the twelfth century. If more Masses are asked for than a priest can say, he is bound to send them to priests in poor parishes where few offerings are made, or to priests on foreign missions. The custom of accepting stipends for Masses is approved only by tradition, i.e. the Church's approval for the past 1,200 years. As the divine teacher of Christ's revelation, She cannot make any universal law contrary to the natural or positive divine law." Conway, "The Question Box," page 271.

Okay, so and you've mentioned this before when we were talking about indulgences, so you don't have to say a whole lot here because of time, but basically that's just, it's just a moneymaking system.

Rob. It's just a moneymaking system, that's what it is. It's a moneymaking system.

Larry. It's a moneymaking system using religion to make money, much like these phony TV preachers on television today constantly begging for money, using money, using religion to make their money, yet these TV preachers today have Rolex watches, they have their own jet airplanes, and all this stuff. We actually have a six hour video series on YouTube. It's on our playlist on phony TV preachers if you want to see. But this is a lot like the same thing, just using religion to make money.

Rob. Yeah, all right.

Larry. All right, let's go on with this next one, the year 1184 A.D., the Inquisition. Torture trials on those who did not accept all the teachings of the Pope. The Pope himself established the Inquisition in 1213, together with the death penalty for heresy. We have torture approved by the Pope. "Curiously enough, torture was not regarded as a mode of punishment but purely as a means of eliciting the truth. It was first authorized by Innocent IV in his Bull 'Ad Extirpanda,' of May 15, 1252, which was confirmed by Alexander IV on November 30, 1259, and by Clement IV on November 3, 1265." That's from the Catholic Encyclopedia VIII, "Inquisition," page 32. Then it goes on to imprisonment as religious punishment, death to non-Catholics, and also the Spanish Inquisition.

All right, Rob, what would you have to say about this Inquisition and the one question I have for you is how come they don't seem to be doing this now if this is a divine institution?

Rob. Right. The Inquisition was first propagated by the Roman Catholic officials because they were afraid that they were losing control in the first place, there were too many developing events where people were taking the Bible in their own hands, where they were establishing communities based upon the reading of the Bible, likes the Waldenses and groups like this, like the...

Larry. Hussites.

Rob. ...the Hussites, but this is much earlier than that. This is prior to the great Protestant Reformation. That's twelfth century, thirteenth century stuff. And the Pope at Rome will go to no end, I mean, he knows no end when it comes to control. So it's control, control, control, control.

Larry. Once again, more like politics, like a political power.

Rob. Yeah, but, you know, today there are many religious fanatics in our world, okay, and the religious fanatics use threats of terror, threats of violence, threats of loss of life and limb. It's nothing for a religious terrorist, even in our world today, to destroy himself in the destruction of others with suicide bombings and things like that. So this zeal, this religious zeal in the name of God, we are going to set things straight and if you don't agree with us, we're going to destroy you and destroy every part of you and grind you into powder and scatter your powder over the waters of the ocean, that same killer zeal that was in the heart of the Inquisition of the Roman Catholic religion in the twelfth and thirteenth century exists with us today. Rome can't get away with it today.

Now, in some parts of the world, I would venture to say that if you were caught in some parts of the world and you were passing out tracts against the Roman Catholic religion, giving mighty sermons on the corruptness of the Roman Catholic religion, I read an article just recently where an entire village was displaced in a province in Mexico, they told all the villagers you've got two weeks to get out or we're going to come in and exterminate you, and they were all Christians. There were about 75 to 100 of them and they had to run for their lives and they had to dig in holes and live in mud huts. They left their belongings behind because the threat was real. Their Christianity was a threat to the local mayor, it was a threat to the drug runners, it was a threat to the narcotics, it was a threat to the gangs. And I can tell you from experience, you know, in the name of God they'll do anything to you and this is the Inquisition, and if it's coming down from on high from the Vicar of Christ and it's ordered through the many channels of the Roman Catholic religion, well, this is the world, this is the world that they lived in, that we live in today. What is being done today in the name of God, Larry? We all know what's being done today by radical religious sects across the nation, and so this is nothing new. It just so happened that these people doing this had the gall and audacity to say they were doing

it in the name of Jesus Christ and it was for the purification of the body of Christ and it was for the good of the church.

Larry. They always come up with some excuse to try to make it look biblical.

Rob. Unbelievable. Unbelievable.

Larry. Well, let's keep moving along here. We're at the year 1190 A.D. We've already touched on this subject too, indulgences. They elaborated it and beefed it up even more during that year and we've already discussed this as well, so for the second time, I'll just move right along. People there at home can see this on their screen and they can pause it and they can read all the information there if they so desire.

Then we move into the year 1215 A.D., transubstantiation, and we have the bread and the wine change into the body and blood. We also, and I'm going to kind of combine this with the other thing, 1226 A.D., the adoration of the Host. The origin of the practice. Roman Catholic Church admits late origin. Perpetual adoration associations and special indulgences.

Now, I'm going to have you explain, once again, we did this other show that went into detail, but this is a different show so you have to explain it again, but explain real quick for the people at home this idea of transubstantiation which is brought in in the year 1215. That's 1,200 years from the times of the early Christian church. They don't bring this doctrine in, and then they have this adoration of the Host. So explain that to us and tell us more.

Rob. Yeah, I need to explain, first of all, that the Roman Catholic religion doesn't care if there is a start officially to anything because their answer is it's always been with us, it has just come to fruition in such a way on this particular date. So you can say to them, "We're talking about the Assumption of Mary, 1850? This is when it was declared?" Yes, but it was believed for 1,800 years before that. It's always been a belief in the Church. Now it's officially declared. So they would say the same thing about transubstantiation, always believed but now officially declared, always held by the Catholic faithful but now it's officially in the dogma and in the document.

Larry. So they would say that about the Inquisition or the divorce decree, and all of this we've already discussed. So all of a sudden that idea doesn't apply to some of this other stuff.

Rob. Right.

Larry. So there's a contradiction there because if they always believed in the Inquisition or in, you know, not being married, you know, by the clergy, why wouldn't that apply? So it seems to be a double standard.

Rob. Well, they pick and choose, and also they do rely upon what they call the elastic clause of doctrine. The Roman Catholics believe that...

Larry. The elastic clause of doctrine?

Rob. Yes. No doctrine is ever set. Ever. It is redefined, it is recommissioned, it is subtly reinterpreted for its breadth and depth of meaning.

Larry. So I could do that with the Pope, for instance, okay?

Rob. Ongoing. Ongoing. The Roman Catholic religion believes in ongoing revelation. They could, they could deliver next week a bombastic statement, they could say that Jesus Christ had a wife, and we'd say, "What? Who believed that?" "Look, this is new revelation. This is new revelation."

Larry. That's sort of like the Mormons.

Rob. God is revealing this to us now, okay, and we can't deny it and we can't make a mistake, and so when they declare it, it's true. This is just normal stuff for Rome. It's called the elastic, the elasticity of doctrine. It stretches.

Larry. So, so, they would take these two doctrines we've mentioned, transubstantiation and the adoration of the Host, and say that they were doing that way back at the start.

Rob. Right. Either they were doing it way back and now it's official, or else it's new revelation for us.

Larry. Although they don't have a shred of evidence from historical sources to prove it.

Rob. 1965, you eat meat on Friday, it's a mortal sin. 1966, it's a nonissue. Why? New revelation.

Larry. Vatican II.

Rob. God has spoken. New revelation. God has spoken.

Larry. Just like the Mormons, new revelations.

Rob. And so when you call them on that, when you say, "Wait a minute, you're telling me a guy can go to hell for eating meat in 1965, and in 1966 he can eat a steak every Friday?" And they say, "That's right." And you say, "What gives?" He says, Look, the issue is not eating steak or not eating steak, the issue is obedience." The sin is disobedience. It's not the eating, it's the disobedience. Now if the magistrate says today it's okay, it's no longer disobedience so do it. Back then they said it wasn't okay. What does that tell you about control?

Larry. And it also brings up the point that if it's a sin and you can go to hell for eating meat on Friday for all those years and then in 1966 not, that tells you that by using logic, doesn't that tell you that they were wrong all those years? They were just wrong because now this new revelation, the elastic revelation, the malleable rubber nose thing that can be changed, they're now saying, "Well, actually it's all right to eat meat on Friday, they just happened to not understand that"

Rob. Well, it wasn't wrong then, it's only wrong now.

Larry. But why is the question. Why wasn't, you know...

Rob. Because they said so. That's what we're talking about, control, because they said so, okay?

Larry. So they don't look at it as they were just wrong all those years and now we know it's the right thing. It reminds me of the Jehovah's Witnesses, you know, when you bring up doctrines that they've believed for years but then they've changed that doctrine, you know, for years they said the faithful and wise servant that gives us meat in due season was Charles Taz Russell, the founder of Jehovah's Witnesses, but then after he died this other guy took over and then he changed that to mean the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is the faithful and wise one. Not the founder, you know, it's us now. You know, they changed it. And as you get into other doctrines, they change things all the time and they say, "Well, we're getting new light. New light. This is new light over the old light." And I said, "Well, that meant they were in error back here and now they've got a newer, truer truth," as they call it.

Rob. That's right.

Larry. And so what we've got here is something very similar to the Jehovah's Witnesses which is just a cult group doing the same thing.

Rob. Right. Right. It's a true, in fact, they say added light. It's added light.

Larry. Right, right. The Jehovah's Witnesses, the same thing, the Mormons do the same thing.

Rob. So now think about this, think about at one time Latin was considered the sacred language and all Masses had to be performed using the Latin vernacular, without it, it wasn't a valid Mass. With new light, we have the Mass now in the language of the people, in the common language, okay, the vulgar language of the people, but there is a movement afoot saying that this may have only been a temporary new light, that the greater brilliance of the Latin Mass is now descending upon us and slowly but surely there is a movement to go back to Latin only Mass. So the first Latin, was that wrong? Was the middle English Mass wrong? And now back to Latin?

Larry. It just goes back Vatican II where basically you can believe anything and you'll be okay because they've got that universalism in it where even in the lumen gentium it says atheists because he's sincere, can get to heaven.

Rob. And of course, who is doing all this? It's Sola Ekklesia. It's never Sola Scriptura. You'll never find any of this in the Scripture.

Larry. That's why this is condemned by Jesus himself, particularly in Matthew 15 since he stressed the word of God over all these traditions of men, but this is all we're getting in the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

Now with time flying on us, let's take a look at 1229 A.D. It says that Scripture is not sufficient, tradition must be added, and condemnation of Bible societies. Well, this is kind of obvious and we were just discussing this. Concerning the Bible, they have to bring in all these traditions because what they're doing is not biblical.

Rob. Right.

Larry. So you have to throw the Bible aside so you can incorporate all these unbiblical doctrines and teachings and elastic teachings that go back and forth. It's sort of like a slinky.

Rob. A slinky. A swinky?

Larry. Well, I couldn't quite remember at first what you call it, but remember those slinkys that did different things? Well, it just goes back and forth.

Rob. Right. What we're saying here of Rome is simply this, Rome believes in apostolic succession which gives the Pope speaking ex cathedra the right to speak revelation that's on a level with Scripture, okay, but they also admit to apostolic succession in interpretive authority. In other words, the Roman Catholic Church is the only Church that can interpret the Bible properly. Everyone else is left with a suspect interpretation.

Larry. That's just like what the Jehovah's Witnesses say, that's just like what the Mormons say, the Reverend Moon's Unification Church. It goes back to the same cultic pattern that you find in all these other groups.

Rob. Yeah, you could not possibly understand the Bible apart from Rome and neither could I come and if they find new light, they change it, and if they can't find it in Scripture, they find it in holy tradition. They've got you coming and going.

Larry. That's right, and so that's why they've got to get rid of the Bible in most cases. Okay, now, we've got less than five minutes to go here, Rob, and so what I'm going to do here just for the sake of the audience is just show on the chart there, they can look at these charts. We don't have time to elaborate them all but this is just to get them on the

screen so people will be aware of these things. So I'll just read them off. You don't have to comment until I get to the end here.

1303 A.D., claim of the Pope to political supremacy. So claim of the Pope to political supremacy, and the information is there just like I said before, pause your video on YouTube and then try to read it if it's clear enough for you, what it's saying. We just don't have time to go through it right now.

Then the year 1415, we have the withholding the communion cup from the laity. So now suddenly during the communion service, the laity is not allowed to participate with the communion cup, which is a violation of Scripture again. But your information is there.

Then in 1545 A.D., tradition made equal in authority to the Bible, and this goes back to why they have to do that.

Rob. Right, this all the Council of Trent.

Larry. To build their straw fortress of the church of Rome, okay?

Then we go here to the year 1545 on justification. Here's where they deny the essential of the Gospel just so they can maintain their sacramental system because if you have faith alone, in Christ alone, then you don't need all this Roman Catholic stuff. If you follow what the Bible says, then you don't need Roman Catholic Church, so they've got to get rid of that and come out with their Council of Trent and all this other stuff to eliminate it. So we have that justification doctrine thrown in there.

In another show, you really go into detail on the scapulars which are brought into detail where you can get to heaven using the scapular in honor of the Virgin Mary. That's 1600 A.D.

Then over here the Immaculate conception of Mary which says Mary was sinless.

1864 A.D. we had the "Syllabus of Errors" which gets into a bunch of stuff. What about religious freedom? What is the Roman Catholic attitude toward freedom? It gets into attacking those that don't like what they have to say, but we don't have time to elaborate.

Then 1870, the Pope is declared infallible.

Then we have 1908, decree invalidating all mixed marriages not performed by a Roman priest.

1950, we have the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, which is another doctrine they invented.

So people at home can see all these things, just come along, they were created that weren't in existence all these years. Now we're almost out of time. We've got about a

minute to go so with that last minute, just look to the camera, talk to the audience and particularly Roman Catholics out there and reason with them for a moment about what we're talking about here and what is the true Gospel.

Rob. It comes down to this, we as Christians believe in Sola Scriptura, the Bible alone for faith and practice, and if you're going to prove a point or make a point or give us a doctrine or have some dogma, it's got to be well attested to by Scripture, proven by Scripture. It can't be culled from any other sources. You as a Roman Catholic believe in Sola Ekklesia, you believe in the sufficiency of the Roman Catholic Church and, therefore, what their leaders say, you trust. If their leaders interpret the Bible in such and such a way, well, they're right. If they have sacred tradition that they appeal to, well, they are right. If they say that Mary was assumed into heaven, well, they are right. And so forth and so on. So it really comes down to a man trusting in reading the Scriptures not with the idea that he goes into a corner all alone and never reads a commentary, never looks up church history, never asks for guidance and help from other more mature Christians. That's not the idea, the idea is that we are all operating from the source of the Bible alone, whereas in Rome that is completely, completely thrown out the window. You're operating from not only the Bible but the magisterium, the infallibility of the Pope, and the infallibility of the Roman Catholic religion to interpret the church fathers in something called holy tradition. This is where we differ. This is why the gulf between biblical Christianity and Roman Catholicism will always be until the Lord comes and sorts it out entirely and completely. There is no hope of the two ever coming together, Sola Fide, Bible alone, Sola Scriptura, based upon what we find in the Scriptures versus Sola Ekklesia, the Roman Catholic Church alone for salvation. These two concepts can never be brought together. You're either with Rome or you're not. You're either with Christ as revealed in the Scriptures or you're not. There can be no compromise.

Larry. Thank you, Rob, for that. I invite our viewers to go to our YouTube channel page, CAnswersTV, and see all the other videos that we have available on Roman Catholicism, including our 16 hour video series that Rob and me did on Roman Catholicism point by point. All right, thank you for being with us. May the Lord bless your studies in these matters and we'll see you next time. God bless.

Check out our websites: biblequery.org, this site answers 7,700 Bible questions; historycart.com, this site reveals early church history and doctrine proving Roman Catholicism is not historically or doctrinally viable; muslimhope.com, this site is a classic refutation of Islam, a counterfeit religion created by Mohammad. Free newsletters are also available.

Hello, this is Larry Wessels, Director of Christian Answers of Austin, Texas, Christian debater. My daughter Marlena has come out with a Christian music CD entitled "Win This Fight." It has eight songs that she has written and performed herself. Some of the song titles are "Win This Fight. Love Song to My Lord. Vessel to You. Waiting to Hear From You. Jesus Is." And others. YouTube viewers can listen and see Marlena's music

video, "Jesus Is," right now free. Just type "Marlena Wessels," m-a-r-l-e-n-a w-e-s-s-e-l-s in the YouTube search box and click on her video on the page that comes next. If you would like more information about getting a copy of her CD, just email us at cdebater@aol.com. That's cdebater@aol.com or give us a call at (512) 218-8022. Thank you and may the Lord bless you and yours.