

**Series: Unmasking the Cults**  
**Spotlighting Roman Catholicism**

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**Roman Catholic Authority**

- *The Bible*
- *The Apocrypha*
- *The Traditions of the Roman Catholic Church*
- *Papal and Magisterium (bishops and priests) Infallibility (in matters of doctrine, faith, & morals)*
- *Roman Catholic Interpretation of the Bible*

**Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 82**

“The church, to whom the transmission and interpretation of revelation is entrusted, does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy scriptures alone. Both scripture and tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.”

**Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 2051**

“The infallibility of the Magisterium of the Pastors extends to all the elements of doctrine, including moral doctrine, without which the saving truths of the faith cannot be preserved, expounded, or observed.”

**Question? Can a Catholic hold onto Catholic doctrine and at the same time receive Christ?**

**Mark 7:8**

For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

**Colossians 2:8**

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

**Rebuttal of Roman Catholic Authority**

- *The Bible is the Sole Authority for faith and practice.*

**Ps 119:160**

Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

**2 Timothy 3:16**

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

**Matthew 4:4**

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

**Acts 17:11**

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

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Material below is adapted from *The Facts on Roman Catholicism* by John Ankerberg and John Weldon

**Roman Catholic Salvation - A Sacerdotal Salvation**

- *The 7 Sacraments – Salvation is a lifelong process dependent on Christ and the practice and fulfillment of the sacraments*

In Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma, Dr. Ludwig Ott observed, “The Sacraments are the means appointed by God for attainment of eternal salvation. Three of them are in the ordinary way of salvation so necessary that without their use salvation cannot be attained [i.e., baptism, penance, holy orders] (Ott, pp. 340-341)

- **Baptism (not repeated)**
  - Baptism is a one time act in Roman Catholicism that cleanses a person from original sin and other sins, and is necessary for spiritual birth and begins the process of justification.
  - "Baptism, which is necessary for salvation, is the sign and the means of God's prevenient love, which frees us from original sin and communicates to us a share in divine life" (The Vatican Council II, Vol. 2, pp. 111 and 112).
- **Confirmation (not repeated)**
  - bestows the H.S. in a special sense, leading to “an increasing of sanctifying grace and the gifts of the H.S. as well as other spiritual power and a sealing to the Catholic church.
- **Penance**
  - Penance removes the penalty of sins committed after baptism and confirmation. Mortal or deadly sins are remitted and the justification lost by such sins is restored. Penance is a particular act offered to God to offset a sin committed. This is where they get into their good works outweighing their bad. The grace one receives at baptism can be lost completely due to the committal of a mortal sin. Without penance, a person cannot be restored to salvation. Through penance a person can make atonement for his own sins. **See Colossians 2:13; Hebrews 7:25; Acts 10:42-43**
- **Holy Eucharist**
  - The Holy Eucharist is where Christ is re-crucified and the benefits of the cross are continually applied to the believer.
- **Marriage**
  - Grace is given to remain in the bonds of matrimony in dictates with the requirements of the Catholic church.
- **Anointing the Sick**
  - Anointing the Sick (also known as extreme unction) bestows grace on those who are sick, old, or near death and help in forgiveness of sins and sometimes the physical healing of the body.
- **Holy Orders – (not repeated)**
  - Holy Orders confers special grace and spiritual power upon bishops, priests, and deacons for leadership in the church.

***A Rebuttal of Roman Catholic Salvation***

- *Christ's work on the cross is all sufficient for man's salvation. Grace is unmerited favor and cannot be earned.*
- *Salvation is not a life long process received by fulfilling the sacraments, but Biblical salvation is at a point in time, when one repents of his sin and places his complete faith in Jesus Christ alone.*

**Romans 5:1**

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

**Ephesians 2:8–9**

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

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**Roman Catholic Salvation – A Misplaced Faith**

- *Roman Catholicism teaches that in addition to the sacraments, the Church, the Priest, Mass, Purgatory, and Mary are all factors in obtaining salvation.*
- **The One True Church**
  - A study of Catholic history will reveal that it's the church and not the Bible that has developed Catholic doctrine down through the years. By its claim to be the one true church, and that you cannot be saved if you are not part of the Catholic church.
  - "But the task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone" (The Vatican Council II, Vol. 1, p. 755). **See Acts 17:11, 2 Peter 1:20-21**
- **The Priest**
  - Priestly confession is necessary for salvation.
  - "Confession is the self-accusation by the penitent of his sins before a fully empowered priest, in order to obtain forgiveness from him by the virtue of the power of the keys" (Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma, p. 431). – **See Hebrews 7:27;**
- **Mass**
  - The Catholic Catechism cites the Council of Trent as providing the standard Catholic view: "This sacrifice [of the Mass] is truly propitiatory,... through the Mass we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For by this oblation the Lord is appeased,... and he pardons wrongdoing and sins, even grave ones" (The Catholic Catechism: The Contemporary Catechism of the Teachings of the Catholic Church, p. 468). **See Hebrews 7:27; 9:12, 28; 10:10**
  - **Note:** Notice the word "once" used in many of these passages referring to Christ's crucifixion.
- **Purgatory**
  - "The doctrine of purgatory clearly demonstrates that even when the guilt of sin has been taken away, punishment for it or the consequences of it may remain to be expiated or cleansed" (The Vatican Council II, Vol. 1, p. 64). **See Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Luke 16:22-23**
- **Mary**
  - "Taken up to heaven she [Mary] did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us gifts of eternal salvation" (Vatican Council II, Vol. 1, p.419). **See Galatians 1:6-9; John 14:6; Acts 4:12**

***A Rebuttal of Misplaced Faith***

- *Without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6*
- *The object of one's faith must be only in Jesus Christ.*
- *Roman Catholicism says do, do, do, and the Scriptures says, Done!*
- *A person is justified (declared righteous by God) by faith in Jesus Christ alone.*
- *Sins are forgiven by the shed blood of Christ. Hebrews 9:22*

**Matthew 9:6**

**6** But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

**Luke 5:20**

**20** And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

**Acts 4:12**

**12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

**Romans 3:25**

**25** Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

**Romans 4:5**

**5** But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

**Romans 5:1**

**1** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

**Romans 5:9**

**9** Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

**Galatians 2:16**

**16** Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

**Ephesians 2:8–9**

**8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

**9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.

**1 Timothy 2:5**

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

**1 Peter 1:18–19**

**18** Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

**19** But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: