

Roman Catholicism (Romanism)

Roman Catholic Beliefs and Facts:

- The Roman Catholic Church is the one true church established by Jesus Christ for salvation of mankind
- Catholics are required to hold to and believe all doctrines of the church
- They hold a high view of sanctity of life and marriage
- Modern Romanism claims to encourage Bible reading and personal study
- Romanism seeks to unite all 'Christians' together in unity
- Believes the Bible to be the inspired word of God (but unwilling to accept that the Bible alone has the final authority)
- Accepts the doctrine of the trinity, Christ's deity and His atonement
- Has good understanding of the seriousness of sin and its consequences
- Roman Catholic tradition has very strong influence on doctrine and practice.
- From a human point of view, Romanism has been (and still is) one of the most powerful influences in world history
- There are over one billion members worldwide

Important note: Roman Catholicism teaches that the Bible (Genesis - Malachi, Matthew – Revelation) is the inspired word of God. But in addition they add five other sources, which they believe, have divine authority too. They are:

1. The Apocrypha
2. Authorised tradition of the Roman Catholic Church
3. Divine, infallibility of the pope
4. When points 2 and 3 are combined, bishops are considered divinely inspired too
5. Official Roman Catholic interpretation of the Bible is considered divine.

All five of these points can be summarised as 'Roman Catholic Tradition.' Protestantism rejects these five points. This is the major difference between the two faiths. Roman Catholics accept the Bible as divinely inspired along with Romanist traditions. Both faiths accept that God cannot lie and never contradicts himself. So we should find that Roman Catholic tradition and the Bible agree with one another completely with no exceptions.

Ten Points for Consideration

1. Oppression and Suppression: The Roman Catholic Church has traditionally suppressed, opposed, and forbidden the open use of the Bible. The Council of Trent (1545-63 A.D.) prohibited its use and pronounced a curse upon anyone who would dare oppose this decree.

Many popes have issued decrees forbidding Bible reading in the common language of the people, condemning Bible societies and banning its possession and translation under penalty of mortal sin and death. The Roman Catholic Church has openly burned Bibles and those who translated or promoted its study, reading, and use (John Hus, 1415; William Tyndale, 1536). This opposition continues today, especially in countries that are heavily influenced by Rome.

Conclusion: A history of Bible suppression should immediately arouse great suspicion and set alarm bells ringing. Why seek to hide, suppress and even destroy the inspired word of God? What does Rome want to hide?

2. Mary: In spite of the great emphasis upon Mary (prayers to, worship, veneration, devotions) in Roman Catholicism, the Bible has very little to say about her. Peter, Paul or James never mentions her in their writings. In fact, none of the New Testament epistles refer to her either.

Though the Bible honours Mary as the mother of Jesus and calls her 'Blessed art thou among women' (Luke 1:28), it does not teach us to deify her, worship her or pray to her. Ask a Romanist to show you a scripture that justifies Mary worship!

Is Mary the mediator between God and man? ...Bible says: 'For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus' (1 Timothy 2:5). 'I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me' (John 14:6).

Should we worship Mary? ...Bible says: 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve' (Matthew 4:10).

Is Christ unapproachable? Does Mary make peace for us between God and man? ...Bible says: 'But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us ; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. ' (Ephesians 2:13-18).

Is Mary the way to heaven? Is our salvation in her hands? ...Bible says: '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).

Queen of the Angels, Prophets, Patriarchs, Apostles, Confessors, Virgins, and all Saints, The Door of Paradise, The Gate of Heaven, Our Life, Mother of Grace, Morning Star, Refuge of Sinners and Mother of Mercy...None of these titles given to Mary by the Roman Catholic church can be found in the Bible.

Conclusion: No justification can be found in the Bible for view that Rome has of Mary. Their view is based 100% on Romanist church tradition.

3. Papa: The word 'pope' comes from the Latin word 'papa' meaning father. Most scholars agree that the first real pope was Gregory I (590-604 AD). The pope claims to be the mediator between God and men with the power over souls in purgatory.

Is the pope the mediator between God and men? ...Bible says: 'For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus' (1 Timothy 2:5).

Is the pope the head of the church? ...Bible says: 'And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body...' (Ephesians 1:22). 'For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power' (Colossians 2:9-10).

Should we call the pope 'His Holiness' or our 'Holy Father'? ...Bible says: 'Call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ' (Matthew 23:9-10).

Conclusion: The concept of the papacy can find no justification in scriptures. In fact, the scriptures strongly condemn the concept. The papacy is based 100% on Romanist church tradition.

4. Embarrassing History: According to Roman Catholicism, popes are meant to be infallible men who set the official standard of morality for the people.

But as shocking and unbelievable as it may seem, many popes were guilty of committing nearly every crime in the catalogue of sin (Read Ludwig Pastor, History of the Popes [a Romanist Historian]). These included rape, adultery, fornication, incest, murder, assassinations, robbery, conspiracy, bribery, fraud and perjury.

The corruption and gross immorality of twenty-nine popes was so open and shameful that Rome has listed them as 'anti-popes' in order to minimize the scandalous testimony of the papacy and erase this notorious blot from their history. But this does not change the fact that thousands, if not millions of Roman Catholics in the past put their faith and hope of salvation in the hands of these corrupt men and the church they represented.

If the popes are infallible then why do they blatantly contradict each other?

Sixtus V recommended Bible reading, while Pope Pius VII condemned it!

Paul V and Urban VIII tortured and imprisoned Galileo for teaching that the earth revolves around the sun!

Many popes have promoted and defended doctrinal heresies in direct conflict with the clear teachings of scripture. Some have endorsed massacres, atrocities, torture, imprisonment, and inquisitions against Rome's opponents resulting in the death of millions. (Read John Foxe, Foxes Book of Martyrs).

Conclusion: Roman Catholic history is soaked in the blood of millions of innocent people. This history is a cold hard fact and a great embarrassment to Rome.

5. Big Sin Little Sin: Romanism divides sin into two categories: 1. Mortal sin: serious offences against God that cannot be pardoned and can lead sure damnation. 2. Venial sin: lesser sins that can be paid off by an indefinite stay in purgatory. There is no uniform agreement between priests as to which sin is which!

...Bible says: 'Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all' (James 2:10). 'Sin is the transgression of the law' (1 John 3:4) 'For the wages of sin is death' (Romans 6:23) 'All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die' (Ezekiel 18:24) 'behold, all souls are mine: as the souls of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the souls that sinneth, it shall die' (Ezekiel 18:4).

Conclusion: According to the Bible, God must punish all sin. All sin is worthy of eternal punishment. One lie merits hell the same as one murder. The entry into heaven is complete and utter perfection. Purgatory was and still is one of the greatest money making scams the world has ever seen! Jesus said: 'Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God' (Luke 16:15). The 'big sin, little sin' view of sin and the concept of purgatory is based 100% on Romanist tradition.

6. Christ and Works: Romanism teaches salvation by good works. In other words, good deeds get you to heaven and bad deeds damn you to hell or purgatory. Therefore Roman Catholics tend to lack assurance. Many continually fear eternal punishment and have more of a fear and terror of God than a love and appreciation towards him for the work at Calvary.

What does the Bible say is the way of salvation?

'For by grace are ye saved through faith; and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast' (Ephesians 2:8+9).

Jesus said: 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life' (John 5:25).

This has been a doctrine since the beginning of the Bible:

It says of Abraham: 'And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness' (Genesis 15:6).

'Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness' (Romans 4:3).

Paul said: 'Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law' (Romans 3:28).

'I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain' (Galatians 2:21).

'For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth' (Romans 10:4).

See also: Galatians 3:11; Titus 3:5-7; Acts 16:31; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; 2 Peter 2:24; Colossians 2:13.

Conclusion: Salvation by good works is not biblical.

7. Halfway Hell: Rome teaches that when Catholics die in an imperfect state, they must enter an in-between realm of punishment called 'purgatory' before being released to heaven. The torments of this halfway hell can vary in intensity, severity, and duration depending upon the guilt, impurity, lack of proper penance, or sorrow of the sufferer.

Rome collects millions of pounds each year from grieving individuals who willingly pay to alleviate the agonies of those in purgatory. However, this frightening doctrine cannot find a single verse in the entire Bible to support it. Rome has had to rely on ingenious twistings of the scriptures to defend this terrifying teaching, along with an isolated passage from the apocryphal book of II Maccabees 12:39-45.

Conclusion: Purgatory is a typical Romanist doctrine, in that it is almost entirely based on nothing more than thin air. Is it not a sad truth that men seem to believe anything as long as it is not in the Bible?

8. Vain Traditions: Though the Catholic Church argues that its roots can be traced to Christ, the historical facts do not support this claim. None of its major traditions and doctrines were taught, defended, practiced, or embraced by the early apostolic church.

Try and find these traditions in your Bible: Prayers for the dead, making the sign of the cross, wax candles, kissing the pope's foot, Holy water, Hail Marys, monks, nuns, monasteries, convents, forty days of lent, holy week, Palm Sunday, Ash Wednesday, All Saints Day, Candlemas Day, fish day, meat days, holy oil, holy palms, St. Christopher medals, charms, relics, Christmas, Easter etc, etc.

Conclusion: Jesus said: 'You hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandments of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many such like things ye do...Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own traditions...making the word of God of none effect through your tradition' (Mark 7:6-8+13).

9. Vain Repetition: The rosary is a device consisting of a chain of beads used in the ritualistic counting of repetitious prayers such as Hail Marys and The Lord's Prayer. It was first introduced by a monk named Peter the Hermit (1090 A. D.), but was not officially sanctioned until the 16th century.

The repetitious recital of prayers is a heathen practice specifically condemned by Christ: 'When ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking' (Matthew 6:7).

Conclusion: The use of the rosary is entirely unbiblical and Christ Himself spoke out against vain babblings and repetitions.

10. Fixed Destiny: A common practice among Roman Catholics are prayers, masses and rituals for the dead in order to improve their condition in purgatory.

These practices are in conflict with the Bible, which teaches that the status of the dead, whether they are righteous or wicked, is fixed and irreversible. The only opportunity men have for determining their eternal destiny is in the present life.

Conclusion: After death the Bible says: 'It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation' (Hebrews 9:27-28).

What Next?

These ten points are only a snap shot of the errors of Romanism. We did not cover the worship of idols or images which is condemned by commandment two (Be sure to look this up in a King James Authorised Version of the Bible as they have removed it from Roman catholic Bibles! - See Exodus 20). We did not cover the full blood stained history and detrimental political manipulation. Would Christ approve of this organisation or is this working contrary to the will of Christ? After close examination hopefully you will conclude like we have that there is nothing good about this Romanist system.