

The Catholic Chronicles

by Keith Green

An Introduction to the Catholic Chronicles A young Catholic believer recently asked me, "What are Protestants still protesting about anyway?" The question caught me off-guard, and at the time I had to answer, "I don't really know ... nothing, I guess." Well my on-the-spot answer really bothered me, and it started gnawing away at me. What were Martin Luther, the Huguenots, the Anabaptists, the Quakers, and the multitudes of others protesting anyway when they broke away from the Church of Rome? What did they suffer untold persecutions and martyrdoms for? I had to find the answer ... and when I found it, I knew I had no choice but to share it.

Chronicle I: The Holy Eucharist -- Eating the Flesh of Deity One might wonder why, in a scriptural expose of the doctrines of the Catholic Church, I would choose this subject The Roman Interpretation of the Lord's Supper (more commonly known as "Communion") for the first of the "Catholic Chronicles." Most Protestants (today, Protestants are considered to be members of any church or church-group outside the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox churches) would expect me to deal with what they might consider the more obvious departures from biblical foundation such as the worship of and prayers to the Virgin Mary, the infallibility of the pope, purgatory and prayers for the dead, the history of the torture and burning of accused "heretics" and such like that and no doubt in future installments we shall look in-depth at each of these.

Chronicle II: The Sacrifice of the Mass -- Jesus Dies Again In Chronicle I, we thoroughly examined the doctrine of transubstantiation its history, practice, and real meaning. But we have waited for this second article to answer the question: Why? Why must there be present in the Mass the literal body and blood of Jesus? What purpose does it serve? The answer is found in these startling words: "The sacrifice of the Mass is the same sacrifice of the cross, for there is the same priest, the same victim, and the same offering." ("The Roman Catholic Sacrifice of the Mass" by Bartholomew F. Brewer, Ph.D.) And in the words of Pope Pius IV.

Chronicle III: Salvation According to Rome "... the free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 6:23) How blessed it is to know Jesus! His love, His mercy, His righteousness, His forgiveness! He has promised to "cast all our sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19) and to separate us from our sins "as far as the east is from the west!" (Psalms 103:12). This is the good news! (That's the literal meaning of the word "gospel" good news!) That is what the true church of our God has the privilege of proclaiming: "liberty to the captives!" (Luke 4:18). The reason I begin this article on the Roman Catholic view of salvation with such rejoicing in my Saviour, is because I have just finished reading a mountain of official (Roman) church literature on the subject, and I can honestly say, I have never had such joy in my heart of hearts about the finished work of Christ. As I scoured each page and read of penance, confession, venial and mortal sins, indulgences, purgatory, etc.

Errors of the Roman Catholic Church

Part 1 by Keith Piper

The Roman Catholic Church believes many false doctrines that are contrary to the Bible, and were unknown to the early Church, such as:

1. Human Tradition is Elevated to Or Above the Word of God (1545 AD)
2. Wrong Gospel, Wrong Message of Salvation
3. Confession of Sins to Priest to Obtain Absolution of Sins
4. Penance
5. Priests
6. Celibacy of Priests and Nuns (1079 AD)
7. Confirmation
8. Extreme Unction (526 AD)
9. Infant Baptism (370 AD)
10. Transubstantiation (1215 AD)
11. Adoration of the Host (Wafer Bread) (1220 AD)
12. The Mass (394 AD)
13. Other Mediators Between God and Man
14. Prayers to Saints (375 AD)
15. Purgatory (593 AD)
16. Papal Infallibility (1870 AD)
17. Indulgences (1190 AD)
18. Idolatry = Making Images (786 AD)
19. Mary Veneration (431 AD)
20. Catholic Attitudes to the Bible (1229 AD)
21. Peter as the Rock
22. 15 Apocrypha Books Added to the Old Testament Bible (1546 AD)
23. Names of Blasphemy (350 AD)
24. Rosary Prayer Beads (1090 AD)
25. Low Moral Standards
26. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary
27. Crossing Oneself (300 AD)
28. Was Peter the First Pope?
29. Roman Catholic Lies, Immorality, Corruption
30. The Inquisition, Torture, Massacres, Murders, Wars (1184 AD)
31. 15 Evidences that the Roman Catholic Church is Mystery Babylon the Great, the Whore of Revelation 17
32. Who Gave Us the Bible? God or the Roman Catholic Church?
33. They Turn People Away From Christ to Honor Twelve Other Things

Conclusion

The Roman Catholic Church has developed many doctrines which cannot be remotely proven from the Bible. For example, the Assumption of Mary.

Question: Did God leave important teachings out of the Bible? Is God forgetful?

The Roman Catholic Church cannot clearly and easily show its history before 320 AD, when the Roman Emperor Constantine professed conversion, amalgamated pagans and Christians, and declared himself to be the head or pontiff of the Universal (Catholic) Church. The early Church never had many of the doctrines that the Roman Catholic Church now has. "If they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isaiah 8:20)

Question: What are some errors of the Roman Catholic Church?

ERROR 1: Human Tradition Is Elevated to Or Above the Word of God (1545 AD) "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy or vain deceit, after the **tradition of man**, ... and not after Christ." (COL 2:8) Jesus charges the Pharisees for exalting tradition above the Word of God in the same way that the Roman Catholic Church does:

- "Why do ye also **transgress the commandment of God** by your tradition?" (Matthew 15:3)
- "Ye made the **commandment of God of none effect by your tradition**. Ye hypocrites." (Matthew 15:6-7)
- "In vain they do worship me, **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men**." (Matthew 15:9)
- "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind." (Matthew 15:3, 6-7, 9, 14)

I challenge Catholics to test their doctrines by God's Word. The Church does not give birth to the Word of God, but the **Word of God gives birth** to the **Church**. "Of His own will **begat He us** with the **word of truth**." (James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23) The Word of God saves us, and we then become part of a local Church. This has always been the case. "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the **word** that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." (John 12:48) Roman Catholicism quotes Church traditions as the authority as to why they add unbiblical doctrines.

ERROR 2: Wrong Gospel, Wrong Message of Salvation. Catholics, since childhood are taught that to get to heaven one must keep the **sacraments**, the **mass**, and **do good works**. This is different from the Bible's definition of the Gospel.

Question: What is the Gospel?

Answer: "I declare unto you the **Gospel** ... how that **Christ died for our sins** ... that He was **buried**, and that He rose again the **third** day, according to the scriptures ..." (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

The Gospel message saves us: "I am not ashamed of the **Gospel** of Christ, for it is the **power** of God unto **salvation**, to every **one** that **believes** ..." (Romans 1:16)

Therefore the Gospel is that: Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again. We are saved when we believe this message, receiving Christ as our Savior. This means that we must trust Christ's blood sacrifice on the cross as being the full payment for all our sins. Paul strongly warns against preaching or believing "another Gospel" in Galatians 1:6-9. "So say I now again, If any man preach **any other gospel** unto you than that ye have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED." (Galatians 1:9)

Question: What is this **OTHER FALSE** Gospel?

Answer: Any idea saying that we can **earn salvation by our good works**.

- "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." Galatians 2:16.

Note that **three** times we are told that we are not saved by keeping the **WORKS** of the law.

Other verses that say the same thing are as follows:

- Ephesians 2:8-10
- Galatians 3:2, 10, 11, 26, 5:4
- Philippians 3:9
- Romans 3:20, 28, 4:5 11:6
- Titus 3:5

The Bible says that **NO AMOUNT** of good works can save us.

Several problems exist for those who trust their works to save them:

- They **never know if they've done enough good works** to make it into heaven: they never know for sure of going to heaven. The Pope doesn't know for sure. So how can he help you to become sure of eternal life.
- They are saying that Christ's death on the cross was **not good enough** to save them and it was a **waste of time**.
- "If righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." (Galatians 2:21)
- They are **rejecting Christ** from being their Savior.
- They are grouping themselves with **every other false religion** whose one thing in common is trusting their **own works**, or merits, or law-keeping to get them into heaven.

Ephesians 2:8-10 states that we are not saved by our works, but that after we have received Christ as our Savior, we will show good works. Paul says:

"Not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ." Philippians 3:9. To teach the all-sufficiency of the saving work of Christ would undermine the entire structure of Catholicism. People are told that if they leave the Roman Catholic Church, they'll surely go to hell. People are kept in bondage of fear of missing salvation if they leave the Roman Catholic Church.

The Catholic "Gospel" leaves Christ out. It teaches people that if they perform well enough such things as : attending mass, partaking of sacraments, praying to Mary (saying the "Hail Mary"), confessing sins to a priest, doing good works etc, they may eventually pass through the fires of purgatory after hundreds of years to then enter heaven.

Do you have real salvation in Christ, **or** are you trusting in keeping the Catholic Church rules to save you?

Many times I have asked Catholics how they were saved. They reply "That's personal, I don't need to tell you." I say: "Then that **proves** that you are not saved and that if you died now, you would surely go to hell, because Romans 10:11 says "Whosoever believeth on Him **SHALL NOT BE ASHAMED.**" If you were really saved you would be happy to tell me how Jesus saved you.

ERROR 3: Confession of Sins to Priest to Obtain Absolution of Sins

Catholic Canon law 870 and 888 state that a priest has power to forgive sins, and confession to a priest at least once a year is necessary unto salvation.

Early church writes such as Chrysostom (350 AD), and Basil (350 AD) wrote strongly about confessing sins to God only.

The Bible gives these examples of confessing sins to God only:

- When Simon of Samaria sinned after being baptized he was told to pray to God for forgiveness. (Acts 8:22)
- The apostles never heard confessions, but said in Acts 10:43 that: "through His name whosoever **believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.**"
- Peter never forgave the sins of Cornelius. (Acts 10:44-48)
- Paul never forgave the sins of the Philippian jailer. (Acts 16:30-34)
- Only God can forgive sins. "Who can forgive sins but God only." (Mark 2:5-11)
- When Peter sinned by denying Christ, he confessed to God and was forgiven. When Judas sinned by betraying Christ, he confessed to some priests and then committed suicide. (Matthew 27:3-5)

Question: What about James 5:16 "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another that ye may be healed."

Answer: This confession contributes to a restoration of health, because the sickness has come on the patient as a punishment for some sins that he committed.

See 1 Corinthians 11:29-31. If we are sick, and are conscious that we have hurt any person, we should make confession to them. The reason is "that ye may be healed." This verse in no way proves that if we confess our sins to a priest, that the priest has power to declare such sins to be forgiven because:

- This confession is not to be made by a person in health to obtain salvation, but by a sick person that he may be healed.
- This verse commands mutual confession, meaning that the priest should also confess his sins to the people.
- No mention is made of confession to a priest, or any minister of religion.
- This confession is for faults where one has injured another. Nothing is said about confessing sins to those we have not injured such as a priest.
- There is **no mention** here of **absolution**, by a priest or any person.
- Only **He (God) whose law has been violated** can pardon or forgive an offence. No third person can forgive a sin between two people.
- Catholic "auricular confession" is so evil because:
 - it gives so much power to the priesthood to suppose that they can absolve sins.
 - it pollutes the mind by keeping impure thoughts in the mind long enough to make confession and to state them in words.
 - it gives a man **such power over a female** to suppose that it is required by religion that all sins passing in her mind should be disclosed to him. The very things that a seducer would like to know are the thoughts of his intended victim. Virtue would be safe nowhere. This practice has greatly corrupted community morals as seen by so many Catholic priests being sued for sexual abuse of women and children.

Question: But doesn't John 20:23 say that a priest has power to forgive sins "Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained?"

Answer: The meaning is, not that man can forgive sins (because only God can), but that they were to declare on **what terms** and **conditions**, to **what characters**, and to **what attitude of mind**, God would forgive sins.

God was saying that people might have assurance of forgiveness who would comply with those terms. Those who did not comply should not be forgiven, and their sins should be retained.

Jesus here is giving the apostles (and by extension all Christians) the privilege of announcing heavens **terms on how a person can receive forgiveness of sins**. If a person believes in Jesus, then a Christian has the right to announce his **forgiveness**. If a person rejects Jesus Christ's blood sacrifice on the cross as the full payment for his sins, then a Christian can announce that persons sins are **not forgiven**.

Jesus Christ is the **only** mediator between God and man, not a priest, not Mary, and not the saints. "There is one God, and **one mediator** between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)

ERROR 4: Penance

Catholicism believes that a priest has the power to forgive or retain sins and **impose penance** as a means of **testing** the genuineness of the person's confession, and of making a **satisfaction** to God for that sin.

Answer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31)

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

We only confess our sins to God. No mention is made of penance here or anywhere. No good works that we do by penance will ever satisfy God, but sinners can be accepted and forgiven only on the ground of Christ's sacrifice, through which alone the justice and wrath of God against sin have been satisfied. (Romans 3:24-28)

"**He** is the propitiation for our sins ..." (1 John 2:2)

Penance is performing outward acts such as repeating prayers, like the "Hail Mary" or the "Rosary", as a payment for sin and to satisfy God. Roman Catholicism bases penance on Ezekiel 18:30, Luke 13:5 and Acts 2:38 where they incorrectly translate "repentance" (metaneo = to turn, repent, to change one's mind) as "penance".

ERROR 5: Priests

A Roman Catholic priest is one who acts in the place of Christ, supposedly making believers into Christians by "baptizing" them. He converts the bread into Christ's flesh in the mass, and he forgives sins in the confessional. In the Bible, all ministers are called elders, bishops or pastors, all referring to the one office, but there is no office of "priest". Christ is our Great High Priest, the only mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5), so there is no need for other priests to mediate for us. **Peter never** called himself a priest, but did call himself a "**fellow elder**". (1 Peter 5:1)

In **Acts**, there is no reference anywhere to a sacrificing priesthood. In Revelation 1:6 ("hath made us kings and priests unto God"), and in 1 Peter 2:5, 9 ("ye are a holy priesthood", "ye are a royal priesthood"), **all believers are priests** and have **direct access to God** through Christ. We don't offer an atoning sacrifice because only Christ did this on the cross. The only sacrifices we offer to God are **prayers** (Ephesians 6:18), **praise** and **money** (Hebrews 13:15, 16), and **ourselves** in service to God (Romans 12:1). This Biblical truth of the **priesthood of all believers** was rediscovered in the Protestant Reformation of the 1500's.

A pastor's real job is to preach the gospel, teach the Word of God and pray, not to hear confession, or change bread to flesh etc. Peter in 1 Peter 5 when he instructed fellow preachers, made no mention of any Roman Catholic priest's practices of today.

ERROR 6: Celibacy of Priests and Nuns (1079 AD)

Forbidding of priests and nuns to marry was introduced in 1079 and has led to much immorality. What does the Bible say?

1. "A **Bishop** must be blameless, the **husband of one wife**." (1 Timothy 3:2)
2. "Have **we** not power to lead about a sister, a **wife**, as well as other apostles, and **Cephas**?" (1 Corinthians 9:5)
3. Peter was married, because Jesus healed His mother in law. (Matthew 8:14 and Luke 4:38)
4. "It is not good that the man should be alone." Genesis 2:18.
5. "To avoid fornication, let **EVERY** man have his own wife, and let **EVERY** woman have her own husband." (1 Corinthians 7:2)
6. a) "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall **depart from the faith**,
b) giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
c) Speaking lies in hypocrisy;
d) having their conscience seared with a hot iron;
e) their **FORBIDDING TO MARRY**, and commanding to abstain from meats." (1 Timothy 4:1-3) This is God's description of the Catholic Church by their forbidding priests and nuns from marrying.

The Catholic church, in support of celibacy quotes Matthew 19:11-12.

1 Corinthians 7:8, 32-34. These passages say it is **permissible to be** celibate if one so chooses, but it is **never to be commanded**. Priestly celibacy has caused so much sexual immorality between priests, women and boys, as priests sexually proposition women for fornication and boys for homosexual relations.

ERROR 7: Confirmation

Catholic Confirmation is supposed to be the conferring of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands. One false doctrine leads to another false doctrine. The false unbiblical doctrines of infant sprinkling and salvation by works lead to the false doctrine of Confirmation.

Confirmation of children is not in the Bible. Look for yourself. Laying on of hands is used to set apart men for a ministry:

- "When they had prayed, they laid their hands on them" (7 men of honest report) (Acts 6:6)
- "And when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away." (Acts 13:3) They laid hands on Paul and Barnabas as they sent them off on their first missionary journey.
- "Lay hands suddenly on no man." (1 Timothy 5:22) Don't ordain pastors suddenly.
- "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery." (1 Timothy 4:14)
- "doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands ..." (Hebrews 6:2)

Nowhere in the New Testament does a preacher lay hands on 8 year old children, who are unsaved.

ERROR 8: Extreme Unction (526 AD)

This sacrament states that "At the end of life, sin can be totally undone and man is prepared for immediate entrance into everlasting glory." This idea is found NOWHERE in the Bible. This will not get a dying person into heaven. His only hope is to receive Jesus Christ as his own Savior, trusting Christ's blood sacrifice on the cross as the full payment for all his sin.

Mark 6:13 is the Catholic defense for this error, yet this verse says nothing about dying people, but only about demonized and sick people being healed. When Pope Pius XII died in 1958, his personal physician was dismissed for telling of his frightful and terrifying fear of death and hell.

Question: If the Pope is not even sure of heaven, how can he help Catholics get to heaven?

Answer: Keeping the sacraments is a net that traps Catholics into believing that they will get to heaven by good works. The sacrament system enslaves a person's mind to the Roman Catholic church from the cradle to the grave.

Nobody was ever saved in the Bible by keeping the sacraments. **Catholic children** are trapped into the sacrament system around age seven or eight years old, when they have neither the knowledge of the Bible nor the maturity to test it with the Word of God.

Question: How can Catholics escape the trap of the sacraments?

Answer: By calling on Jesus Christ to be their only Savior, and by basing their life on the Word of God.

ERROR 9: Infant Baptism (370 AD)

The Catholic infant "baptism" is NOT Bible baptism because:

- Baptism in the New Testament Greek means "**immerse**, dip, fully overwhelm" as one may check in Strong's Concordance dictionary. "Baptizo" in Greek means "immerse"; "Ramtizo" in Greek means "sprinkle." Catholic sprinkling is not Biblical immersion.
- **No Baby** was ever sprinkled in the Bible. Check it.

Question: "What doth hinder me to be baptized?"

Answer: If you believe with all your heart you may. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. (Acts 8:36-37)

Question: How can a baby believe this?

3. Baptism means nothing unless a person has received Jesus Christ as their Savior. It is always **saved first, then baptized**. Never does anyone get baptized in order to be saved. "Baptism is the answer of a good conscience towards God." (1 Peter 3:21)

Question: How can a baby show a good conscience towards God?

Answer: He can't. Baptism is something that each person must decide to do himself to publicly show that he is trusting Christ's death to pay for his sins, burial of the old lifestyle, and resurrection with Christ to a new way of life. Romans 6:1-5. Sprinkling does not picture Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

4. Baptism **does not save a person**, as the Catholic church claims. Only Christ's blood can cleanse us from sin. If we can get saved by baptism, then Christ's death was a waste of time. (Galatians 2:21)

5. The repentant thief on the cross was not sprinkled by water, yet he was saved by trusting Christ alone to save Him, not his good works.

"... we receive the due reward of our deeds: ...Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:41-43)

Notice that he was promised eternal life, and not able to lose it, yet the Catholic Church says that you cannot be sure of eternal life and that you can lose it.

6. Ananias who was not a Catholic priest, but just a layman baptized Paul. (Acts 17-19). This shows that baptism by a non-catholic is valid.

7. Children under the age of accountability go to heaven at death. "children ... of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:1-10; Matthew 19:14) "I (David) shall **go to him**, but he shall not return to me." (2 Samuel 12:22-23)

Question: Doesn't John 3:5 say "Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God?"

Answer: It does not say "born of water baptism", but "born of water." What is meant by water? It is the water of the Word of God, because the Word of God produces conviction of sin and shows a person's need of Christ.

Paul says "With the washing of **water** by the **word**." (Ephesians 5:26)

Peter says: "being **born again**, ... by the **Word of God**." (1 Peter 1:23)

James says: "of his own will **begat** He us with the **Word** of truth." (James 1:18)

Peter says: "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which **have** received the Holy Ghost ...?" (Acts 10:47)

Cornelius' household here were saved before being baptized, thus proving that baptism does NOT save. It is only by calling on Christ to save us. (Romans 10:13)

ERROR 10: Transubstantiation (1215 AD)

Definition: The whole substance of the bread and wine is converted into the **actual and real entire body and blood of Christ**.

Answer: Radbertus first made up this doctrine in the 9th century. Catholics support this by a **literal** view of Matthew 26:26-29. "Take eat; this is my body. For this is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Consider these reasons why the bread and wine were **symbols** of Christ's body and blood, to be partaken in for remembrance purposes only, and that there was **no material conversion** of the bread to the body, nor of the wine to the blood of Christ.

1. Jesus, after saying "this is my blood" in Matthew 26:28 also said "I will not drink henceforth of this **FRUIT OF THIS VINE**" in Matthew 26:29, showing that the **grape juice** was **STILL WINE** and had not been changed to blood.

2. Jesus **often referred to Himself in symbols**, yet why equate Him with the symbol in these Scriptures?

John 10:7 "I am the door." Did Jesus mean He was literally wooden? No.

John 14:6 "I am the way." Did Jesus mean He was literally a road? No.

John 15:5 "I am the vine." Did Jesus mean He was literally a tree? No.

John 8:12 "I am the light." Did Jesus mean He was literally a torch or a sun? No.

John 6:48 "I am the bread of life." Did Jesus mean He was literally a loaf of dough? No.

John 6:63 states clearly that Jesus was **speaking spiritually**, not literally: "The **words** that I speak unto you, they are **spirit** and they are life."

Luke 22:19 states clearly that the Lord's supper is for **remembrance** purposes: "This do in **remembrance** of me." This is a metaphor, where one thing is said to be another thing because of its similarity. A metaphor is a figurative use of terms without indicating their figurative nature, for example, he shall eat his words.

3. The bread and wine did not become Christ's body and blood because:

a. Christ was still present with them. Christ would have had 2 bodies, one which died on the cross and one which did not.

b. To drink blood was forbidden in Acts 15:20, 29 "We write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from **BLOOD**."

In Deuteronomy 12:16, "Only ye shall **not eat** the **blood**."

4. The tense of the Greek verbs "EAT" in John 6:50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58 is in the **AORIST** tense showing a **ONCE-FOR-ALL**, point action, that is NOT CONTINUAL. The Biblical Lord's supper is to be a repeated event, and therefore has no saving merit. Roman Catholics are commanded to believe in transubstantiation because it was stated at the Council of Trent (11 October 1551) that this doctrine was essential for salvation. They pronounced curses on anyone who would deny it.

Paul the Apostle, in contrast, pronounced a double curse on anyone who preached a gospel different from the all sufficiency of Christ's death, burial and resurrection to save us from our sins. Therefore in Galatians 1:6-9 Paul puts a double curse on this "other gospel" of transubstantiation for salvation.

5. Before Christ ascended to heaven, He promised to come to us during the Church Age, **NOT in the sacrifice of the MASS**, but by the **Holy Spirit** (John 14:16-18 as Comforter): "He shall give you another Comforter ... even the Spirit of truth ... I will not leave you comfortless: **I WILL COME TO YOU**." Note: Christ will return to earth a second time visibly in glory. This is what is meant by 1 Corinthians 11:26 "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death **TILL HE COME**."

Note: This means that Christ does **not come literally** and visibly as the **wafer** in the **mass**, but to the air as in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

6. At the Council of Constance in 1415 it was agreed to withhold the cup from the congregation lest the wine be spilt. However this contradicts 1 Corinthians 11:25-29 where **ALL** Corinthian believers drank of the wine:

"Whosoever shall eat this bread and **drink this cup** unworthily." (v.27) **Drinking the cup** is mentioned **six times** in five verses. Transubstantiation is not a mystery, but an absurdity; not a difficulty but a contradiction.

Question: How then do we eat His flesh and drink His blood?

Answer : THROUGH THE **WORD OF GOD**.

John 6:63. "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

John 1:14. "And the **Word** was made **flesh**."

John 5:24. "He that heareth My **Word** and believeth on Him that sent Me, has everlasting life."

The scribes who knew Jeremiah 31:31-34, "I will put my **law** in their inward parts", and Jeremiah 15:16, "Thy **words** were found and **I DID EAT THEM**; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart", understood the idea of receiving God's Word into one's inner being.

Peter got the **message**, while others planned to desert Jesus:

"Thou hast the **WORDS** of eternal life." (John 6:68)

"Being **born again** ... by the **WORD of God**." (1 Peter 1:23-25) Peter knew that Jesus was speaking about the **WORD** of God, and not about literal flesh and blood.

Question: If this doctrine of transubstantiation only arose in the 9th century, and if it is so necessary to Roman Catholic salvation, what happened to those who lived before the 9th century not believing this doctrine? Did they all go to hell?

Question: What about the thief on the cross who repented and never took the wafer? Did he go to hell? No! Jesus said he went to paradise.

ERROR 11: Adoration of the Host (Wafer Bread) (1220 AD)

Catholic doctrine requires Catholics to bow down to and worship the wafer bread as God. "There shall arise false prophets ... if it were possible they shall **deceive** the very elect ... wherefore if they shall say unto you, ... behold, He is in the **SECRET CHAMBERS; BELIEVE IT NOT**." Matthew 24:24, 26.

The Catholic priest does and says precisely this. He says that the **bread is Christ** and puts the bread into the monstrance, a secret chamber. Christ says, **BELIEVE IT NOT!**

ERROR 12: The Mass (394 AD)

Definition: At every mass, Christ is sacrificed again.

Catholic doctrine says: "In the mass, no less than on Calvary, Jesus really offers His life to His heavenly Father."

Question: Must Christ be continually sacrificed in the mass, or was His blood sacrifice on the cross 100% sufficient to pay for all our sins for ever?

Answer: Christ's blood sacrifice on the cross **IS** 100% SUFFICIENT to pay for our sins, for the following reasons:

1. In John 19:30 Jesus said, "**IT IS FINISHED**", which in the Greek is "tetelestai" meaning "to make an end, to accomplish, to complete something, not merely to end it, but to bring it to perfection or its intended goal." It means that the whole work of salvation, the purpose for which Christ came into the world, has been accomplished on the cross. Nothing more can be added to it. This is why we cannot save ourselves by our good works, or religious rituals, as it is adding to Christ's finished work on the cross.

The mass really says that Christ's death on the cross is not good enough to pay fully for all our sins or to save us. The mass says that we get to God apart from Christ's blood sacrifice on the cross.

The mass says that Christ's blood sacrifice on the cross was a waste of time, as Galatians 2:21 states: "if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."

2. When Christ died, the **veil** in the Jewish temple was **torn** from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51). This veil separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. The Holy of Holies was entered once a year by the High Priest on the day of atonement (Exodus 26:31).

The tearing of this veil (60 ft high, 30 ft wide, 1 ft thick) was a type of Christ's human body, torn on the cross. This showed that a "new and living way" was opened for all believers into the very presence of God. No other sacrifice and no other priesthood was needed, just Christ's High Priesthood. "2Having therefore, brethren, **boldness** to enter into the holiest by the **BLOOD OF JESUS**, by a **NEW AND LIVING way**, which He hath consecrated for us, through the **veil**, that is to say, **HIS FLESH**." Hebrews 10:19,20. We can now enter into the holiest presence of God without priestly sacrifices.

3. The New covenant which operates now in the Church Age states: "Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is 3"**NO MORE OFFERING FOR SIN**." (Hebrews 10:17-18) The Catholic priest "offering Christ weekly" contradicts this clear statement that there is "**NO MORE OFFERING FOR SIN**" needed.

4. Christ's sacrifice is clearly stated as **ONCE FOR ALL**, not to be repeated. "We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **4ONCE FOR ALL**." (Hebrews 10:10)

"But this man after He had offered **5ONE SACRIFICE FOR SINS FOR EVER**, sat down on the right hand of God." (Hebrews 10:12)

"By **6ONE OFFERING** He has perfected **FOREVER** them that are sanctified." (Hebrews 10:14)

Not just is Christ's sacrifice the one and only sacrifice for sins forever, but **no more offering is needed**: "Now where remission of these is, there is 7**NO MORE OFFERING FOR SIN**." (Hebrews 10:18)

8"**Nor** yet that He should **OFFER HIMSELF OFTEN**...9For then must He **OFTE**n have suffered since the foundation of the world : but now **10ONCE** in the end of the world hath He appeared to **put away sin** by the sacrifice of Himself." (Hebrews 9:25-26)

"So Christ was **11ONCE** offered to bear the sins of many." (Hebrews 9:28)

"For Christ also has [12] **ONCE** suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might **bring us to God**." (1 Peter 3:18)

5. Catholic priests performing the "mass resacrifice" is a waste of time and of **no value** in taking away sins.

"Who **13needs not daily**, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice first for his own sins, and then for the people's : for this He did [14] **ONCE**, when He offered up Himself. (Hebrews 7:27)

"and every **priest** standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, **WHICH 15 CAN NEVER TAKE AWAY SINS**." (Hebrews 10:11)

It is only by this **one** sacrifice of Christ on the cross that people can be saved. The continual sacrifice of the mass is not needed and opposes the Bible.

- a) Notice that there are **15 statements** that clearly teach the 100% sufficiency of Christ's blood sacrifice on the cross.
- b). Each clearly says that Christ's sacrifice is **ONCE for all**.
- c). **No more sacrifice** is required.
- d). Priests sacrifices **can never take away sins**.

The mass is a sacrifice without blood. Yet the Bible says that "without the shedding of **blood** there is no remission." (of sin). We do not need to sacrifice Christ again. His sacrifice 2,000 years ago is sufficient.

f). Confession is also called "**RECONCILIATION**."

Christ alone on the cross "made **reconciliation** for the sins of the people." (Hebrews 2:17)

"God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto Himself**."

(1 Corinthians 5:19)

"For if, when we were enemies, **WE WERE RECONCILED to God by the death of His Son**."

Romans 5:10.

"God, who **HAS RECONCILED** us to Himself, by **JESUS CHRIST**." (2 Corinthians 5:18)

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet **NOW**

HATH HE RECONCILED."

(Colossians 1:21)

Notice that the Biblical reconciliation is:

1. **Past** tense.
2. By **Jesus Christ**, not by a Catholic priest.
3. We **already possess reconciliation**, we don't get it at confession.

ERROR 13: Other Mediators Between God and Man

We have **Christ** as our **Great High Priest** who gives us full access to **God's throne** of grace. We do not need a human priest, nor Mary, nor dead saints to intercede for us. "Seeing then that **we HAVE a GREAT HIGH PRIEST ... JESUS CHRIST** the Son of God ... Let **us** therefore **COME BOLDLY** unto the **Throne of grace**, that we may **obtain mercy**, and **find grace** to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:14, 16)

The Catholic priest, not only makes Christ's death on the cross a waste of time, but he also takes Christ's place as **intermediary** between **man** and **God**, when he says that you can't be saved unless you come to mass performed by him. They call him "Vicar" meaning "in the place of". "For there is one God, and **ONE MEDIATOR** between **God** and **man**. The man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)

Catholicism calls Mary a "Mediatix".

Jesus is falsely portrayed as being **ANGRY** with people.

Mary is falsely portrayed as being **MERCIFUL**, and as Jesus' mother, is seen as uniquely able to pacify Jesus Christ's supposed anger towards people.

The Bible says that there is **ONE MEDIATOR** who is Jesus Christ and no one else. Jesus Christ is the merciful and faithful High Priest, and because He has suffered earthly temptations, He is well able to comfort us in earthly temptations. (Hebrews 2:17-18)

Question: Where does it say that Jesus is angry with Christians?

Answer: Nowhere. "I will be **merciful** to their unrighteousness." (Hebrews 8:12)

ERROR 14: Prayers to Saints (375 AD)

The Bible states that all true believers are "saints."

"To the saints which are at Ephesus." (Ephesians 1:1)

"To all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi." (Philippians 1:1)

"Praying to saints" is a Catholic device to stop people from praying to God and turns people away from developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Once again, this false doctrine teaches that dead saints are more approachable and helpful than is Jesus Christ.

Question: Do you see that a constant theme of Catholicism is to turn people away from Jesus Christ? It turns people instead to Mary, saints, a wafer, a priest, traditions, Popes, etc.

Why? What have they got against Jesus Christ? In fact, prayers to saints are:

- Contrary to the Bible which says "After this manner pray ye: "**Our Father**". (Matthew 6:9)
- Contacting the dead is forbidden in Deuteronomy 18:10-11.
- "There shall not be found among you any one that ... is a necromancer."
- A necromancer is one who seeks to contact the dead. Much of what is attributed to saints is false. For example, St. Philomena was proclaimed a saint by Leo XII, and Pope Gregory XVI blessed one of her images. Rome later admitted that she never existed and in 1961 struck her off the list of saints.

- There is no Bible example of praying to saints, nor is there any Bible example of them having power to answer prayer. We pray to God the Father with Jesus as our only intercessor. Once again, "There is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)

ERROR 15: Purgatory (593 AD)

Purgatory is an imaginary half-way place between heaven and hell, where unforgiven sin is purged away. This is a great evil because:

- It deceives Catholic people into a false sense of security that they may be lukewarm and easily avoid hell.
- It denies that Christ's blood sacrifice on the cross is sufficient to pay for all our sins. It says that Christ did not die for all our sins, so we must be punished for them in purgatory.
- It denies the Biblical doctrine of true salvation in Christ and certainly of eternal life, forcing a person to work for their salvation.

Answer: The Bible states clearly that Christ purged our sins on the cross.¹ "When He had by Himself **PURGED OUR SINS.**" Hebrews 1:3, and 2 "There is therefore now **no condemnation** to them that are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1 and John 5:24)

Why didn't the Apostles discuss purgatory?

Did God and the Apostles forget to tell us something important? No. When a believer dies he is immediately present with Christ.³ "To be **absent from the body** and to be **present with the Lord.**" 2 Corinthians 5:8. There is no mention here of having to spend time in purgatory.⁴ Jesus in Luke 16:19-31 reveals that there is a **great gulf** between paradise and hell. People cannot pass from one to the other.

Catholics defend purgatory by quoting 2 Maccabees 12:40-46 where a "sin offering" is offered for dead soldiers who had committed the sin of idolatry. This not only contradicts the Bible, but also contradicts Catholic teaching, because idolatry is a mortal sin that would confine a person to hell. The Book of Maccabees has never been regarded as inspired by Jews or Christians.

For the Roman Catholic, purgatory teaching is:

1. A **terrifying prospect** of entering a place of unspeakable torture. Millions of Catholics live and die in great fear of death, to spend an unknown number of years in purgatory. Christ came to "deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Hebrews 2:15. Roman Catholicism is a religion of fear.

- a) Fear of purgatory.
- b) Fear of the priest.
- c) Fear of the confessional.
- d) Fear of death.
- e) Fear of consequences of missing mass.
- f) Fear of the discipline of penance.
- g) Fear of the righteous judgment of an angry God.

2. **A great money raiser**

Suffering in purgatory may be shortened by gifts of money, masses, prayers by the priests, etc.

Question: If the Pope or priest, really has the power to shorten or stop the suffering of souls in purgatory, why does he not, if he is a good man, render that service freely and willingly as a service to humanity?

Purgatory is a "gigantic fraud" and a "colossal racket", because it deprives the **poor** of their last pennies and extorts large funds from the **rich** in exchange for NOTHING.

Question: Mr. priest, how do you know when to stop saying masses, or if you've said too many? How do you know when the person is out of purgatory?

Question: Mr. priest and Pope, when you die, where do you hope to go?

Answer: I don't know.

This message of purgatory offers NOTHING to a sad and perishing world.

Problem: The purgatory doctrine represents God as a respecter of persons. Because of money, a rich man can pay more for prayers and masses, than can a poor man. The rich man therefore passes more speedily through purgatory and into heaven than the poor man. The Bible teaches that entrance into heaven is not based on one's wealth, but on one's response to receiving Jesus Christ as Savior alone. Compare death for a believing Protestant which is the joy of promotion to heaven.

ERROR 16: Papal Infallibility (1870 AD)

Definition: When a Pope is speaking in his official position on any issue of faith or morals, he is speaking infallibly, meaning without error.

Answer: The apostles never regarded any man to be infallible, only the Word of God is regarded as without error. If Peter was Pope, which the Bible says he was not, then he made mistakes as in Galatians 2:11-14 when he was deceived by Judaizers. "But when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be **blamed.**" The following events from history show the error of Papal infallibility.

1. Pope John XII, in the "Liber Pontificalis" the Catholic publication discussing the lives of the Popes, said that "He spent his entire life in adultery."
2. Popes Innocent III, Gregory XI, Clement IV, Hadrian VI, and Paul IV all disagreed with Papal infallibility.

3. Pope Stephen VI (896) had the dead Pope Formosus (891-6) tried, questioned, fingers hacked off, dragged through Rome and thrown in the Tiber river.
4. Pope Hadrian II (867) declared civil marriage to be valid, but Pope Pius VII (1800-23) declared it to be invalid.
5. Pope Eugene IV (1431) had Joan of Arc burned alive as a witch, but later Pope Benedict IV in 1919 declared her to be a saint.
6. Pope Pius XI in 1929 endorsed Fascism and called Mussolini "a man sent by God." However, before World War II, he warned people against Mussolini.
7. The Vatican advised the German Catholic Party to vote for Nazi candidates. In 1933, the Vatican and Hitler signed a concordat, where the Catholic church swore allegiance to the Nazi government. Later on Pope Pius XI condemned Hitler.

How can a supposedly infallible man make so many errors of judgment, and even contradict other so-called infallible Popes? Surely this disproves Papal infallibility to any honest, open-minded person.

ERROR 17: Indulgences (1190 AD)

Definition: A person after confessing his sins to a priest, in order to be free from the punishment still due for his sins, requires the church to pray for his rehabilitation. The person must do penance works such as fasting, making pilgrimages, giving money, making prayers or inflicting pain on oneself, as a penalty for sins committed.

Historically, people found it easier to pay money to the Roman Catholic church than to pray for long hours. The Roman Catholic church preferred money because the Pope ran out of cash in building St Peter's Basilica in Rome. So the Roman Catholic church issued the person with an official statement that he had received release from the penalties through the payment of money. This document was called an **indulgence**. They could be bought for friends and relatives who had died and passed into purgatory, thus shortening the time that they would have to spend there.

Martin Luther objected to Tetzl, a Catholic indulgence seller, who publicly announced to people that if they put a coin in a box, a dead relative's soul would immediately pop out of purgatory. His advertising slogan was: "As the coin in you pop, a soul from purgatory doth hop."

Answer: Obviously, this teaching cannot be found in the Bible. After World War II, the Archbishop of Winnipeg asked mothers who had sons killed in the war, to pay \$40 to have masses said on behalf of their sons to guarantee their salvation and entrance to heaven. This practice is still observed in many parts of the world, and accounts for the great wealth of the Catholic church as seen in the big cathedrals it builds.

What Bible verses forbid indulgence selling?

1. Jesus warns against this practice in Matthew 23:14, a verse that Catholics have cut out of modern Bible versions.

"Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye devour widows houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."

The Pharisees of Jesus' day, as well as Catholic priests of today, tell widows that their dead husband has gone to purgatory. They ask her if she wants him to go to heaven. If yes, she will have to pay the priest to say a mass to pray for his soul to leave purgatory. Widows don't usually have much money, so he tells her to sell her house to pay for it. This is how widows houses are devoured by priests who for a pretense make long prayers.

2. The Israelites were forbidden to give money for the dead. "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him." Psalms 49:7. No gift of money can save another person; only the blood of Christ can.
3. Peter says: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as **silver** and **gold** ... but with the precious **blood of Christ**" ... (1 Peter 1:18-19) Nobody is redeemed with indulgence money.
4. Simon the sorcerer offered the apostles money so that anyone that he laid hands on would receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Peter rebuked him strongly in Acts 8:20-23 saying: "Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the **GIFT OF GOD** may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness ..." Salvation is the gift of God that each of us must claim freely for ourselves when we call on Christ to be our Savior. No baptism, Eucharist, confessional to a priest, penance, extreme unction, or paying money can save us, only faith in Christ's precious saving blood to pay for our sins.

ERROR 18: Idolatry = Making Images (786 AD)

The Catholic Council of Trent declares that: "It is lawful to have images in the church and to give honor and **worship** to them ... Images are put in churches that they may be **worshipped**." The Oxford dictionary defines an **idol** as: "An image used as an object of worship. A person or thing that is the object of excessive devotion." An **Idolater** is a devoted admirer of idols.

Answer: What does the Bible say about images and idols?

1. Exodus 20:4-5.

- a) Thou shalt not **MAKE** unto thee **ANY** graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in **heaven** above, or that is in the **earth** beneath, or that is in the **water** under the earth.
- b) Thou shalt not **BOW DOWN** thyself to them.
- c) Nor **SERVE** them.

If you **make** any graven image you have broken this commandment, whether you worship it or not.

Question 1: Do Catholics **MAKE** graven images? Yes.

Question 2: Do Catholics **KNEEL** down to statues of Mary or Jesus? Yes.

Question 3: Do Catholics **SERVE** Mary? Yes, as in "Legion of Mary."

2. Leviticus 26:1.

- a) "You shall make you **NO IDOLS** nor **GRAVEN IMAGE**.
- b) Neither rear you up a **STANDING IMAGE**.
- c) Neither shall ye set up any **IMAGE OF STONE** in your land to bow down unto it."

Question 4: Do Catholics rear up **STANDING IMAGES**? **Yes.**

Question 5: Do Catholics set up any **IMAGE OF STONE**? **Yes.**

3. Deuteronomy 4:16

"Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and **MAKE** you a **GRAVEN IMAGE**, the similitude of **ANY FIGURE**, the likeness of **MALE** or **FEMALE**."

Question 6: Do Catholics make graven images of **MALE** or **FEMALE**? **Yes.** Mary is a female. Jesus and the apostles are males.

4. Deuteronomy 16:22

"Neither shalt thou **SET** thee **UP ANY IMAGE**: which the Lord thy God **HATES**."

Question 7: Do Catholics **SET UP ANY IMAGES**? **Yes.**

Question 8: Does God **HATE IMAGES**? **Yes.**

5. 1 Thessalonians 1:9

"How ye turned to God **FROM IDOLS** to serve the living and true God."

Question 9: Did the early Christians turn **FROM IDOLS**? **Yes.**

6. Deuteronomy 27:15

"**CURSED** be the **man** that **MAKES ANY GRAVEN** or **MOLTEN IMAGE**, an **abomination** unto the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place."

Question 10: Does God put a **curse** on any person that makes **any image**? **Yes.**

Question 11: Why does God call an image an **ABOMINATION**? Because He hates it.

7. Isaiah 40:18-19

"To whom then will ye liken God? or what **LIKENESS** will ye **compare** unto Him? The workman melts a graven image"

Note: God has no visible form and we cannot liken Him to any material object. The **Catholic answer** is that they say that they do not **worship** images.

God's reply is not to even **MAKE IMAGES**.

8. The early Christians had NO IMAGES

Early Christian writers such as Irenaeus, Clement, Cyprian, Athanasius, and Jerome, wrote strongly **AGAINST** images, statues and any manner of prayer or veneration regarding them. The Council of Constantinople in 381 AD voted unanimously to remove all images from the churches.

9. The Catholic church removes the second commandment against **MAKING** graven images from the list of 10 commandments in Exodus 20:1-17. This presents them with the problem of **only having 9 commandments**. They resolve this problem by splitting commandment number 10 into 9 and 10.

That is, 9: You shall not covet your neighbour's **wife**.

10. You shall not covet your neighbour's **goods**.

This is seen in the book "A brief summary of the Ten Commandments" by the Daughters of St. Paul, p. 12-13:

WHAT ARE THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD?

The Commandments of God are these ten:

"I am the Lord your God:

- 1. You shall not have strange Gods before me.*
- 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.*
- 3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.*
- 4. Honor your father and your mother.*
- 5. You shall not kill.*
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.*
- 7. You shall not steal.*
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.*
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods."*

Exodus 20:1-17

The number Two Commandment should be "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image." Exodus 20:4. Check your Catechism to see if they have left it out.

Question: Why do you think they left it out?

10. Every Catholic institution has images of Mary, Jesus and male and female figures. An example of this are two statues at the French Papal Palace of Avignon, one of Jesus about 20 meters above ground level, and the other is an

enormous statue of Mary, much larger, grander and higher up than that of Jesus. This gives the greater honor to Mary than Jesus. It also clearly breaks the second commandment forbidding making images of things in heaven.

Question: Who do we believe, the Word of God or the Catholic Church? "We ought to obey God, rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

ERROR 19: Mary Veneration (431 AD)

There are many errors associated with Mary veneration, some of which are as follows:

1. Historical correction with Pagan mother and child worship.

Mother and child worship started at the Tower of Babel. Nimrod, King of Babel was killed for his great evil. His wife Semiramis, fearing that she would lose control, devised a plan to maintain the people's loyalty. She and everybody knew about the future birth of a virgin born Messiah/Savior promised in Genesis 3:15 as the "seed of the woman" who would bruise satan's head. So Semiramis had an illegitimate son, whom she named "Tammuz." She commanded that everyone worship herself and Tammuz as the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15, claiming that her son was supernaturally conceived and was the promised savior.

When the people at Babel were scattered, they carried this mother and child worship with them wherever they went. This is why we see so much mother and child worship in so many ancient societies. For example, in the following ancient cultures, the mother and child were represented as follows:

	Mother	Son
Babylon	Semiramis	Tammuz
China	Shingmoo	
Germany	Hertha & Child	
Scandinavia	Disa	
Etruscans	Nutria	
Greece	Aphrodite en Ceres	
Rome	Venus	Jupiter
India	Devaki	Krishna
Asia	Cybele	Deoius
Canaan	Ashtaroth	Baal
Ephesus	Diana	
Egypt	Isis	Horus
Phonicians	Lady of the Sea, Astarte	

They forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. (Judges 2:13)

When the early Christian church grew through the preaching of Paul and others, no compromise was made with pagan mother and child worship. When the Ephesians were truly converted, they destroyed their idols of the goddess Diana, so that the silversmith craftsmen were going out of business. (Acts 19:24-27)

When the Roman Emperor Constantine professed conversion in 320 AD, he commanded that everyone in the Roman Empire become "Christian". At this time, half the empire were pagan worshippers of mother and child, and the other half professed to be Christian. It is obvious that you cannot pass a law to compel everyone to follow a certain religion, as people have their own free will. A compromise was reached which allowed the pagans to continue their mother and child worship, yet still give the appearance of being Christian. They simply changed their pagan mother and child worship to worship Mary and Jesus.

This resulted in Mary worship becoming an official doctrine of the Roman Church in 431 AD at the Council of Ephesus. Since then, Mary worship has grown, so that Mary is now called the "Mother of God", the "Queen of Heaven", "Madonna", etc.

Please note that Mary is NOT the "**Mother of God**", as God was around long before Mary was born. Mary is the mother of Jesus (Acts 1:14), she is never called the "Mother of God". Jesus never called Mary "mother", but "woman". She is the mother of Jesus' humanity, but not His Deity.

Note also that Mary never claimed to be the "**Queen of Heaven**" as this was a pagan goddess that apostate Israelites made cakes to, thus provoking God to anger. "... the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the Queen of Heaven, ... that they may provoke me to **anger**." (Jeremiah 7:18 and 44:17-19, 25)

In pagan religions, the mother was worshipped as much or more than her son, yet the Bible clearly shows that Christ is to be worshipped and NEVER Mary.

2. The Bible never mentions Mary interceding for us

Who did the thief on the cross appeal to for salvation? Was it Christ or Mary? Jesus said: "**Come unto ME**, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

"Him that **cometh to me** I will in **no wise cast out**." (John 6:37)

"No man cometh unto the Father, but by **ME**." (John 14:6)

Praying to Mary is a device to turn people away from praying to Christ. Acts 4:12 states that there is no salvation in anyone but Christ. Luke records a woman saying to Jesus about Mary in Luke 11:27, 28, "Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked (Mary). But He said, Yea rather, **blessed** are they that **hear the Word of God, and keep it**."

As a man, Jesus always said "No!" to Mary's requests. For example, in John 2:3-5, Jesus rejected Mary's request for more wine by saying: "Woman, what have I to do with thee?" Mary then told the servants "Whatsoever He saith unto you, DO IT." Jesus did not say "Yes mother, I will do anything you ask."

3. **The Immaculate Conception**

Definition: "Mary was born sinless and led a sinless life". She was declared to be "infallible" and this was made official by Pope Pius IX in 1854. He said "There is no salvation to those who do not believe this dogma."

Answer: Even St Augustine wrote that Mary's flesh was "flesh of sin" and that "Mary springing from Adam, died because of sin." Mary acknowledges that she is a sinner by calling God her Saviour. Remember, **only a sinner needs a Saviour.**

"My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." (Luke 1:47)

"For **ALL HAVE SINNED** and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

"There is none righteous, **no not one.**" (Romans 3:10)

4. **Perpetual Virginity**

Definition: "Mary remained a virgin all her life, never having sex with her husband Joseph and therefore having no other children."

Answer: This idea is found **NO WHERE** in the Bible. This idea was official dogma in 451 AD. Note these Bible verses disproving this false doctrine:

a) "Joseph took unto him his wife: and knew her not **TILL** she had brought forth her firstborn son ..." Matthew 1:25.

This means that Joseph knew Mary sexually in normal marriage relations after Jesus was born.

b) Jesus' fellow Nazareth townsfolk who grew up with Him asked: "Is not this the carpenter's **son**? Is not his **mother** called **Mary**? and his **brothers**, James, Joses, Simon and Judas? And his **sisters**, are they not all with us?" Matthew 13:55,56. Jesus here has brothers (adelphos) and sisters (adelphai). Catholicism attempts to explain these away as cousins. This cannot be valid because the Greek word for cousin is "anephios." Mark 6:3 also translates these as "brothers" and "sisters".

c) Jesus had brothers:

"Neither did **his brethren** believe in Him." (John 7:5)

"These all continued ... with **his brethren.**" (Acts 1:14)

Nine times the Bible says that Mary was not a perpetual virgin.

5. **The Assumption of Mary**

Definition: "Mary ascended into heaven in a bodily form." This was made official and "infallible" by Pope Pius XII in 1951.

Answer: This is **NOWHERE** mentioned in the Bible.

John 3:13 "No man has ascended up to heaven, but ... the Son of man ..." Ascended in the Greek means "go up of one's own power", not taken up as was Elijah or Enoch.

Objection: Doesn't Revelation 12:1-7 describe a woman in heaven clothed with the sun, having the moon under her feet and a crown of 12 stars on her head, giving birth to a man child (Christ), refer to Mary?

Answer: No. Because:

- a. Genesis 37:9, 10 shows this woman to be the Israelite nation, with the sun representing Jacob, the moon representing his wife Rachel, and the 12 stars representing the 12 tribes of Israel. Christ was born of Israel. The Israelite nation is often referred to as a woman in Isaiah 54:5, "thy mother is thine husband" and Jeremiah 31:32, "although I was a husband unto them."
- b. This woman cannot be Mary, because this woman is **on earth** during the tribulation, whereas Mary's spirit is in heaven at that time.
- c. This woman is **persecuted** on earth during this time, yet Mary in heaven cannot be persecuted on earth.

6. **False Prophecies and Miracles attributed to Mary**

Many "visions", "miracles" and "prophecies" have been attributed to Mary. For example, the vision attributed to Mary at **Fatima** in 1917 told three shepherd children to repeat the rosary daily. It called for people to reform their lives and to build a chapel in her honor.

Also, the message at **Medjugorje**, Yugoslavia, attributed to Mary said that: "God is not looking for great believers, but simply for those who respect their faith and live peacefully. Peace is more important than conversion, fasting, penance or prayer."

Question: Do you believe that every vision a person claims to have is true and from God?

Answer: Satan can give false visions, miracles and prophecies to deceive people away from the gospel of salvation by faith in Christ. "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:8)

Notice how these visions turn people's attention **AWAY FROM CHRIST** to **something else**, such as, saying the rosary or peace. These visions have three errors in common:

- a. They usually point people to peace and the Catholic church.
- b. They glorify Mary, instead of Jesus.
- c. They contradict and ignore the Bible.

Beware of satan transforming himself into an angel of light. To avoid being deceived, we must test everything by the Word of God.

Charles Chiniquy, a former priest from Montreal, Canada, who became a Presbyterian minister, tells of the following conversation between himself and his bishop when doubts began to assail him regarding the place given to Mary:

CC: "My lord, who has saved you and me upon the cross?"

He answered, "Jesus Christ."

CC: "And who paid your debt and mine by shedding His blood; was it Mary or Jesus?"

He said: "Jesus Christ."

CC: Now, my lord, when Jesus and Mary were on earth, who loved the sinner more; was it Mary or Jesus?"

Again he answered that it was Jesus.

CC: "Did any sinner come to Mary on earth to be saved?"

"No."

CC: "Do you remember that any sinner has gone to Jesus to be saved?"

"Yes, many."

CC: "Have they been rebuked?"

"Never."

CC: "Do you remember that Jesus ever said to sinners, 'Come to Mary and she will save you?'"

"No", he said.

CC: Do you remember that Jesus has said to poor sinners, 'Come to me?'

"Yes, He has said it."

CC: Has He ever retracted those words?"

"No".

CC: "And who was, then, the more powerful to save sinners?"

"O, it was Jesus!"

CC: "Now my lord, since Jesus and Mary are in heaven, can you show me in the Scriptures that Jesus has lost anything of his desire and power to save sinners, or that He has delegated His power to Mary?"

And the bishop answered "No."

CC: "Then, my lord, why do we not go to Him, and to Him alone? Why do we invite poor sinners to come to Mary, when, by your own confession she is nothing compared with Jesus, in power, in mercy, in love, and in compassion for the sinner?"

To that the Bishop could give no answer. (*Fifty Years in the Church of Rome*, p. 262).

ERROR 20: Catholic Attitudes to the Bible (1229 AD)

1. The Roman Catholic church has a history of **burning Bibles**.

2. When it could not stop Bibles being printed, it denied anti-catholic scriptures by saying "**that's your interpretation**", meaning that the Bible has no authority if anyone can interpret it in any manner.

3. They allow Catholics to read the Bible, but teach that it is wrong and sinful to put any interpretation on scriptures that is contrary to Roman Catholic doctrine. In other words, **don't think for yourself**, you may discover that Catholic doctrine is full of error and contradictions. Just **blindly accept everything Rome tells you**, trust Rome.

ERROR 21: Peter as the Rock

The whole structure of the Roman church is built on the assumption that in Matthew 16:13-19, Christ appointed Peter to be the first Pope and so established the papacy. If we destroy the papacy of Peter, the foundation of the papacy is destroyed along with the whole Roman hierarchy. "And I say also unto thee, that thou art **Peter** (Greek 1) **Petros**, 2) masculine, 3) a person, 4) a large stone, 5) a piece or fragment of rock such as a man might throw); and upon this **rock** (Greek 1) **Petra**, 2) feminine, 3) not a person, but a 4) cliff, a mass of projecting immovable rock). I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and **WHATSOEVER** thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and **WHATSOEVER** thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Catholicism claims several false doctrines from this passage:

- Peter is the rock.
- Peter is the first Pope, with special spiritual supremacy over the church.
- This same spiritual authority has always resided in the **Popes of Rome**, as being Peters successors (This idea is nowhere mentioned in Scripture).
- Christ built his church on Peter. This is contrary to God's Word which says: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus". (1 Corinthians 3:11)
- Christ gave Peter keys to admit into heaven only those who came through the Roman Catholic church.
- Those not coming through the Roman church would be bound in sin and unable to enter heaven.

Each of these six can be shown to be false as follows:

1. **Peter is not the rock**, because the 12 disciples, knowing well the Old Testament, recognized the Rock as a description or name for God.

"He is the Rock, His word is perfect." (Deuteronomy 32:4)

"The Lord is my Rock, and my fortress." (Psalms 18:2)

"For who is a God save the Lord? Or who is a Rock save our God." (Psalms 18:31)

We see here that there is **NO OTHER ROCK** than God, not even Peter. Jesus Christ is the foundation rock on which the church is built:

- a. The **Old Testament prophets** said so (Isaiah 28:16; Psalms 118:22).
- b. **Jesus** said so referring to Himself as "the stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner." (Matthew 21:42)
- c. **Paul** said so, stating that "the **rock** that followed them was Christ." 1 Corinthians 10:4 and "other **foundation** can no man lay then that is laid which is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11)
- d. **Peter** said so, stating that Christ is "the **stone** ... which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in **any other** ... " (Acts 4:11-12)

Catholicism is saying that salvation is not in Christ, but in **Peter** as the first of a succession of Popes. Peter, however, contradicts this wrong idea by saying that, "Christ is the **chief corner stone**" in 1 Peter 2:4-8.

"To whom coming, as unto a **living stone**. (v.4)

Behold I lay in Zion a **Chief corner stone** ... he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. (v.6)

The stone which the builders disallowed is become the head of the corner. (v.7) And a **stone of stumbling**, and a **rock offence**, even to them which stumble at the **word**, being disobedient." (v.8)

Even if we allow Catholicism to believe that Peter is a foundation stone upon which Christ built His church, Catholicism has to admit that **other New Testament apostles** and Old Testament prophets make up the foundation **equally** as much as Peter does, because:

"And are built upon the foundation of **the apostles** and prophets, **Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone**." Ephesians 2:20.

And the wall of the city had **12 foundations**, and in them the names of the **12 apostles** of the lamb." (Revelation 21:14)

Peter is given no greater importance than any of the other apostles.

"Thou art Peter (Petros), and upon this rock (Petra) I will build my church." (Matthew 16:18)

Answer: In the Greek, the word "**Peter**" is **Petros**, a person, masculine, a rock or stone that a man might throw.

In the Greek, the word "**Rock**" is "**Petra**", not a person, but a cliff, a mass of projecting, immovable rock. It refers **not to Peter**, but to Peter's declaration of Christ's deity "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

"**PETROS**" means a small, **moveable stone**, but "**PETRA**" means an **immovable foundation**, in this case, Peter's statement on Christ's deity, upon which Christ would build His church.

Christ made two complete, distinct statements. He said:

1. Thou art Peter, and
2. Upon this rock (change of gender, indicating change of subject) I will build my church."

Peter was **not characterised by a "PETRA" immovable foundation**, as seen in these incidents:

- a. Peter soon tried to stop Jesus going to the cross, so Jesus gave him a stinging rebuke: "Get thee behind me, satan." (v.23) These are strong words to use against someone who has just been appointed Pope.
- b. Peter slept in Gethsemane during Christ's agony.
- c. Christ rebuked Peter for rashly cutting off Malchus' ear.
- d. Peter boasted that he was ready to die for Christ.
- e. Peter then shamefully denied with curses that he knew Christ.
- f. Paul rebuked Peter for error and hypocrisy at Antioch in Galatians 2:11 "But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be **blamed**."
- g. In Mark 9:33-35 the disciples argued as to who was the greatest among them. Had Jesus already given Peter the chief rank of Pope, then Christ would have simply referred to His previous granting of power to Peter. Yet Jesus just said that the greatest shall be last and servant of all.
- h. Augustine and Jerome state that the Rock is Christ, not Peter. Mark's gospel was written by Mark, assisted by Peter, yet neither Mark's gospel or Peter's letters mention this incident. They would surely mention it if we needed to know it.

God is called the "Rock" 34 times in the Old Testament. It was clearly a title of God. Every Jew would be shocked to call a man the "Rock". Therefore "Peter" and "Rock" are translated as **two different words**, with **two different meanings**.

Note: In John 1:42 Jesus said "Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called **CEPHAS**, which is by interpretation, a **STONE**." Cephas (2786) is a Syriac surname given to Simon, which is "Petros" in greek, not "Petra". Peter did not call himself by his Syriac name (Cephas), but by his Greek name (1 Peter 1:1, 2 Peter 1:1). The word for rock (Petra) in Matthew 16:18 is the same word used for the rock fortress at Edom, known as "PETRA". It is 1.4 kilometers long, 226 meters high, 457 meters wide. Jesus did not say that Peter was the PETRA rock fortress, but that Simon was Petros, a piece of rock. Only God is called "a ROCK." Jesus is just saying to Simon "I will make you a firm and distinguished preacher in building my church."

2. **Peter is NOT the first Pope, with supremacy over the Church** because of these reasons:

- a. At the Jerusalem council in Acts 15:13-19, the advice of **James** not Peter was sought and followed. James, not Peter was the spokesman who handed down the decision.
- b. If Peter was the first Pope, he would have had a greater position than the other disciples. When the disciples discussed which of them of the greatest in Mark 9:33-35, Jesus had a great chance to affirm Peter's headship as the first Pope, but Jesus simply said that the greatest shall be a servant of all. Thus Jesus showed **no special** Papal leadership to Peter. Nor should we.

3. **Peter was given the keys of the kingdom of heaven** (Christian profession in the Church Age), only in the sense that it was Peter who opened the door of Gospel preaching opportunity to Israel on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38-42), and to the Gentiles in the house of Cornelius (Acts 10:34-46). Peter opened the door, and everybody who received Christ as Saviour went into the Kingdom of God through Christ.

ERROR 22: 15 Apocrypha Books Added to the Old Testament Bible (1546 AD)

Roman Catholicism added these books in order to undermine Protestant belief in the Bible as sole authority. Some apocryphal books seemed to support Catholic dogma. We reject the Apocrypha for these reasons:

Reason 1: The Jews never received these books. They were rejected by both Jews and all Christians up till 400 AD. Jesus never quoted from the Apocrypha.

Reason 2: They have many errors of time, history, geography, as well as contradictions to the Bible. Examples of errors are:

1. Judith falsely states that Nebuchadnezzar reigns over the Assyrians, whereas he ruled Babylon instead.
2. Judith has Holohermes moving an immense army 300 miles in 3 days (2:21).
3. Tobit could not have witnessed the division of Israel into the Northern and Southern kingdoms in 931 BC (Tobit 1:4), and have been deported 200 years later in 734 BC (Tobit 1:10).
4. Ecclesiastes 3:3 states that giving money forgives sins, which contradicts the work of Christ on the cross.

Reason 3: Christ and the apostles in the New Testament quote 260 times from 35 out of 39 Old Testament books, yet they never quote from the Apocrypha.

Reason 4: Josephus in 90 AD listed all the 39 Old Testament books, yet he did not include the Apocrypha. The Catholic church only added them at the Council of Trent to defend the Protestants attack on purgatory, where 2 Maccabees 12:40-45 tells of Judas Maccabeus offering a sacrifice for soldiers who died while guilty of the mortal sin of idolatry.

ERROR 23: Names of Blasphemy (350 AD)

Officials of the Roman Catholic church take names for themselves that are reserved to God, the Lord Jesus Christ such as:

1. **Pontifex Maximus** is a Papal title meaning in Latin "chief bridge maker" between earth and heaven. However, Jesus Christ is the only One who can claim this title because "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) This was a title of Julius Caesar and of the Roman Emperors of paganism, thus showing how modern Roman Catholicism is of pagan origin. Constantine, a politician, in 320 AD, hijacked the church of Rome, taking control of it for himself. Hence, all Popes accept the title "Pontifex Maximus" which title belonged to the Roman Emperors from Julius Caesar onwards.
2. **Holy Father** is a title the Pope claims for himself. However, this title occurs only once in the Bible, and used when Jesus addresses His Heavenly Father in John 17:11 in His great prayer before His betrayal, arrest and crucifixion. It is blasphemy for any man to claim this title for himself. It belongs only to God, the Father.
3. **Father** is a title that every Roman Catholic priest claims for himself and expects to be called. Jesus warns in Matthew 23:9, "Call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your father which is in heaven."

Objection: But isn't it wrong to call your earthly parent "father"?

Answer: No, because in Romans 4:1 "Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?" God refers to Abraham as "our father pertaining to the flesh" which is an acceptable usage. Obviously the Roman priest is not your physical father, but claims to be a spiritual father, which is what God forbids. We ought not to call a priest "father", unless he is your physical parent.

4. **Monsignor** means "my Lord", and this clearly is a title belonging only to God, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a name of blasphemy that Romanism takes from God.

5. **Reverend** is a title of many Roman Catholic priests and Protestant ministers. This is also a title for God in Psalms 111:9 "Holy and Reverend is his name." It is always blasphemy for any man to take to himself a title of God. No preacher in the early church claimed "Reverend" as his title, nor can we today.

In Revelation 17:3 John saw a whore riding a beast described as "full of names of blasphemy." These five names of blasphemy of the Roman Catholic church link it with the whore called "Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots, and abominations of the earth." (Revelation 17:5)

6. "**God Himself on earth**" is a Papal title in the New York Catechism.

7. **Mary as "Mother of God"**. Mary was the mother of Jesus Christ's humanity, but not the mother of Jesus Christ's divinity. Jesus is Mary's creator. Hence we reject this blasphemous title given to Mary. This title puts Mary before God. God has no mother. God has always existed.

8. **Other Blasphemous titles given to Mary** are Queen of Heaven, the Gate of Heaven, our life, Mother of Grace, Mother of Mercy, etc. Heaven has no Queen, only the King. Christ is the Door, the Life etc. For Mary to hear all Catholic prayers she would need to have the omniscient powers of God. This is Blasphemy!

ERROR 24: Rosary Prayer Beads (1090 AD)

Saying the rosary is often assigned to a person after he has been to confession as a penance or as a means of storing up merit in heaven. The rosary may be defined as:

1. A series of prayers, in its long form consisting of:

15 "Our Fathers" (the Lord's prayer, addressed to God the Father)

15 "Glory be's" and

150 "Hail Mary's" addressed to Mary as follows:

"Hail Mary, full of grace ... pray for us sinners ..."

2. A chain of beads for counting the prayers. Note that the rosary has **TEN TIMES** as many prayers addressed to Mary (150), as are addressed to God the Father (15), with **none addressed to Christ**. It thus exalts Mary **10 TIMES** more than **GOD**.

Jesus forbids the rosary prayer in Matthew 6:7-8: "But when ye pray, **use not vain repetitions**, as the **heathen** do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. **Be not ye therefore like unto them.**"

The Bible teaches that the true believer should pray to God from the heart reverently, thankfully, humbly, thinking of what he is doing, and of God to whom he is speaking. Buddhists and Moslems use a prayer device similar to rosary beads. Reject the rosary.

ERROR 25: Low Moral Standards

The Protestant moral code comes directly from the Bible. For example, "Don't steal" means "Don't steal."

The Roman Catholic moral code is mainly based on Catholic canon law, and only secondarily on the Bible. For example, "Don't steal" means "stealing is alright provided that the value of the thing stolen is not excessive." (Liguori). The authority of the church as interpreted by the priest is what matters. The Catholic standard of morality is not to stir the conscience to decide right and wrong for itself, but to let the Papal church decide what is right and wrong. Drinking liquor and gambling considered as vices by Protestants, are not counted as evil by Romanist's except when indulged to excess.

Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits states that "if anything shall appear white to our eyes which the church has defined as black, we likewise must declare it to be black." This means "DON'T THINK, just accept whatever Rome tells you."

Consider these moral sins perpetrated by Roman Catholicism:

1. **Alcoholic Liquor**

"**LOOK NOT** upon the wine when it is red ... it bites like a serpent." (Proverbs 23:31, 32)

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." (Proverbs 20:1)

"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink." (Habakkuk 2:15)

Roman Catholic theologian Liguori states that "It is not a mortal sin to get drunk, unless one loses completely the use of his mental facilities for over **one hour**." The Protestant cannot force his will and conscience to approve, believe and do what his mind knows to be wrong.

Jack Kennedy is considered a good Catholic, even though he made his millions illegally selling liquor in the prohibition days. This liquor ruined millions of people's lives through domestic violence, road deaths, deformed children of alcoholic parents etc.

2. **Gambling**

Roman Catholicism favors games of chance, especially as they play bingo in church halls. Gambling is an attempt to **get something for nothing** through the throw of dice, turn of a wheel etc. It is an attempt to live off the greed of others, not by honest toil. Gamblers often end up broke. Bingo familiarizes young people with other forms of gambling, and gives gambling the church stamp of approval. Organized gambling flourishes where the muscleman is boss and where business is done by threats, coercion and corruption, which are common methods used to extract gambling debts.

Gambling is addictive to many people, and this enslaves whole families into a life of poverty and fear.

"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Matthew 19:19)

Gambling wants to take as much as possible from one's neighbor, not love him as ourself.

3. **Sexual abuse by priests of children**

The Roman Catholic church has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in compensating the victims of priest's sexual abuse of children. In many cases, these priests have simply been moved to another parish when their crime came to light. If the Roman Catholic church is the mother of holiness, how can this be?

ERROR 26: Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary

This is simply false, having no foundation in the Bible, yet why do Catholics accept this so blindly?

ERROR 27: Crossing Oneself (300 AD)

This is a practice that is not found in the Bible either. Jesus never crossed Himself, nor did the apostles, nor should we.

ERROR 28: Was Peter the First Pope?

No, because:

1. Peter was **married**, and Popes cannot be married. In Matthew 8:14-15 Jesus healed Peter's mother in law. "When Jesus was come into Peter's house, He saw his **WIFE'S MOTHER** laid, and sick of a fever." "Have we not power to lead about a sister, a **WIFE**, as well as ... Cephas (Peter)?" (1 Corinthians 9:5)
2. Peter would not allow men to **bow down** to him, as he forbid Cornelius in Acts 10:25, 26. "Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. Peter ... said stand up; **I myself am a man.**" The Pope likes men to bow down to him.
3. Peter rejected the "**tradition** from your fathers." (1 Peter 1:18), yet the Catholic church and Popes base their teachings on man's traditions.
4. Peter wore **no crown** as the Pope does.
5. Peter had **no wealth** as the Pope has: "Peter said, silver and gold have I none ..." (Acts 3:6) Peter never **ACTED** like a Pope, never **DRESSED** like a Pope, never **SPOKE** like a Pope, and people never **APPROACHED** him as a Pope.
6. Peter never took to himself the title "**PONTIFIX MAXIMUS**" as all the Popes willingly accept, as seen by the initials P.M. after their names in the Vatican. This was a title of the pagan Roman Emperors from Julius Caesar's time on. It means "Chief Bridge Maker between earth and heaven." This is a name of blasphemy for a man to take, and Peter never saw himself as such. Jesus Christ is the only Bridge Maker between earth and heaven. (John 1:51)

ERROR 29: Roman Catholic Lies, Immorality, Corruption

More than 50 Popes show themselves to be atheists or unbelievers. The history of the Popes records homosexuality, rape, murder, adultery, drunkenness, selling religious offices, etc. This is hardly behaviour fitting a "Holy Father" or "The Vicar of Christ".

Examples include the following:

1. Pope Sergius III (904-911) obtained his office by murder. He fathered several illegitimate children by Marozia, who assassinated Pope Leo VI (928-929), and put her own teenage son (John XI) as Pope.
2. Pope John XII (955-964) is described in the Catholic encyclopedia as a coarse, immoral man. The Catholic collection of the lives of the Popes, the "Liber Pontificalis" said: "He spent his entire life in adultery." Catholic bishop Luitprand states that "he had no respect for single girls, married women or widows -- they were sure to be defiled by him."
3. Pope Boniface VII (984-985), John XII and Leo VIII were described by the Bishop of Orleans as "monsters of guilt, reeking in blood and filth."
4. Pope John XV (985-996) split the churches finances among his relatives and was described as "covetous of filthy lucre and corrupt in all his acts."
5. Pope Benedict IX (1033-1045) committed murders and adulteries in broad daylight, robbed pilgrims, and was regarded as a hideous criminal. The people drove him out of Rome: The Catholic Encyclopedia says, "He was a disgrace to the chair of Peter."
6. Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) promoted the Inquisition, surpassing all his predecessors in killing over one million people.
7. Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1303). The Catholic encyclopedia states "Scarcely any possible crime was omitted - heresy, gross and unnatural immorality, idolatry, magic, simony ... his whole pontificate was one record of evil." Dante visited Rome and described the Vatican as a "sewer of corruption" and assigned Boniface VII, Nicholas III and Clement V to the "lowest parts of hell." He proposed to be an atheist and in 1302 issued the "Unum Sanctum" officially declaring the Roman Catholic church as the only true church, outside of which on one can be saved.
8. Pope John XXIII (1410-1415) was accused by 37 clergy witnesses of fornication, adultery, incest, sodomy, simony, theft and murder. It was proved by a legion of witnesses that he had seduced and violated 300 nuns. He kept a harem at Boulogne of 200 girls. He was publicly called the devil incarnate. He has been called the most depraved criminal who ever sat on the Papal throne.
9. Pope Pius II (1458-1464) fathered many illegitimate children and taught others to do likewise.
10. Pope Paul II (1464-1471) maintained a house full of concubines.
11. Pope Sixtus IV (1471-1484) financed his wars by selling church offices to the highest bidders.
12. Pope Innocent VII (1484-1492) fathered 16 illegitimate children by various women.
13. Pope Alexander VI (1492-1503) committed incest with his two sisters and daughter. On October 31, 1501 he conducted the worst ever sex orgy in the Vatican.
14. Pope Paul III (1534-1549) as a cardinal fathered three sons and a daughter and sought advice from astrologers.
15. Pope Leo X (1513-1521) the Catholic encyclopedia says "was possessed by an insatiable love of pleasure, revelry and carousing. Luther visited Rome and said: "No one can imagine what sins and infamous actions are committed in Rome." A saying was: "If there is a hell, Rome is built over it."

16. Pope Joan was a female Pope whose name was changed later to Pope Zacharias. Luther, on visiting Rome reported her statue in a back street, and John Huss referred to her in his defense as the Council of Constance and this went unchallenged. She died in childbirth while in a public procession.

17. Pope Stephen VI (896-897) brought the dead body of former Pope Formosus (891-897) to trial, hacked off his decaying finger and had him dragged through the streets of Rome and thrown into the Tiber river.

18. Pope Eugene IV (1431-1447) condemned Joan of Arc to be burned alive as a witch, but Pope Benedict IV (1919) declared her a saint.

19. The "great schism" of 1378 lasted 50 years, where Italian and French Popes cursed each other. Is this the same morally pure church that Christ left to preach the gospel? When confronted with such evil Papal history, the Catholic church, which claims "infallibility", teaches that "A sinful Pope ... remains a member of the church, and ... from whom we may not withdraw obedience." Catholic encyclopedia Volume 4 page 435. Jesus said in Matthew 7:18, 20: "A good tree **cannot** bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit ... **by their fruits** ye shall **know** them."

20. Pope Alexander III decreed in 1170 that wills had to be made in front of a priest, or excommunication (cutting off from church and sentence to hell) would result.

The Catholic church has much to be embarrassed about in its history, as seen from the sample of 20 Popes actions.

ERROR 30: The Inquisition, Torture, Massacres, Murders, Wars (1184 AD)

So openly corrupt was the Catholic church, that many noble people left in protest, looking to Jesus Christ for salvation and to the Bible for truth, while rejecting the false claims of the Popes. These were called heretics and bitterly opposed and tortured by the Roman Catholic church.

Pope Innocent IV in 1252 approved torture and ordered civil authorities to burn "heretics" in the "Ad extirpanda" Bull. This torture was reinforced by Popes Alexander IV, Clement IV, Nicholas IV, Boniface VIII and others from 1254-1303.

Roman Catholic documents revealed that they murdered around 68 million protesters from 1100 to 1800 AD when the Inquisition stopped.

The following torture devices were used against protesters:

1. The rack which stretched and dislocated joints.
2. Heavy pincers tore out fingernails.
3. Thumbscrews dislocated fingers.
4. "Spanish boots" crushed legs and feet.
5. The Iron virgin was a hollow metal case with knives inside, which pierced the victim placed in it.
6. Hanging.
7. Eyes gouged out.
8. Molten lead poured into ears and mouth.
9. Being forced to jump off cliffs onto sharp spikes below.
10. 100,000 Albigenses (Protestants) were massacred in one day in 1211, then burned in heaps.
11. Pope Pius IV sent the Italian army to massacre many women and children at Orange in 1562.
12. 10,000 Huguenots (French Protestants) were killed in Paris on St Bartholomew's Day and 75,000 the week after. The Huguenot wars killed 200,000 Protestants.
13. The "30 Years War" in Germany saw the population drop from 15 million to 5 million due to Catholic invading armies killing 900,000 protestants.
14. The Spanish Armada was sent to conquer Protestant England by Catholic King Philip of Spain. "Bad weather" destroyed this fleet off the coast of England. The inquisition was ordered by Papal decree and confirmed by Pope after Pope. Why did no Pope stop the Inquisition torture? Jesus said "turn the other cheek", "love and forgive our enemies", and "do good to them that despitefully use us". Was the Roman church acting like Jesus Christ here?
15. Galileo was sent to a dungeon and publicly flogged because he believed that the earth moved around the sun. On 22 June 1663, Galileo had to fall on his knees to escape the cruel death ordered by Pope Urban VIII and sign a retraction "I abjure, curse and detest the error and heresy of the earth moving around the sun ... it is absurd, false and erroneous."

Truly, the Roman church is "drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." (Revelation 17:6)

Two Roman Catholic devices to muzzle opposition are:

- a) Accusations of "**bigotry**". A bigot is "one who is obstinately and intolerantly devoted to his own church, party, belief or opinion." Romanists gag opposition by branding their opponents as "BIGOTS". Anyone who opposes Romanism in writing is branded as a "HATE MONGER" or "HATE LITERATURE" distributor, hoping to silence anyone who disagrees with it. "The Jesuits have urged the Catholic church in America to label every criticism of it as 'bigotry.'" -- Christianity Today, October 28, 1957.

When Romanism and communism are in the minority, they talk of tolerance and freedom. When they are in the majority, they show very little tolerance or freedom to Protestantism or Democracy. The Roman church shows herself to be the biggest bigot ever.

It has been said that:

Rome in the minority is a lamb.

Rome as an equal is a fox.

Rome in the majority is a tiger.

Pope Boniface VIII in 1302 decreed in the "Unan Sanctum", the doctrine of the "two swords": the spiritual sword of the church and the earthly sword of kings which should submit to the Roman Catholic church. Dr de Luca of the University of Rome, was commended by Pope Leo XIII in 1901 by saying: "The Catholic church has the right and duty to kill heretics by fire and sword." This proves that Rome has not changed.

b) Whenever Rome is refuted by a Bible verse, they reply: "That's just your interpretation", meaning that no one can really interpret the Bible, so leave it up to Rome to be the **authority** rather than the Bible. It is a device to wrest authority from the Bible to Rome.

ERROR 31: 15 Evidences that the Roman Catholic Church is Mystery Babylon the Great, the Whore of Revelation 17

Who is the whore/woman in Revelation 17? God has given us similarities to prove conclusively that she is the Roman Catholic church. What are these similarities of the whore with the church of Rome?

1. The **WOMAN** which thou sawest is **that great CITY**, which **reigns over the kings of the earth**. (Revelation 17:18)

Question: Which city reigned over the kings of the earth in the first century?

Answer: Rome, no doubt. The Roman emperors were called "Pontifex Maximus". So too are the Popes called by the same title.

2. She is called the "**GREAT WHORE**". (17:1) A whore is unfaithful to one husband, by having relationships with many suitors. So is the Roman Catholic church, unfaithful to God's Word as seen by her adopting so much false, unbiblical doctrine.

3. "With whom the **KINGS OF THE EARTH** have committed fornication. (17:2) The Roman Church has always sought to further her purposes by controlling politicians, kings and governments. She is the state church in so many countries like Spain, Portugal, Italy, Poland, South America and Ireland. She seeks to control governments in every country. In Revelation 17:3, she is sitting on a beast, as a rider sits on a horse controlling it.

The early Church kept separate from the State because its task was to win people to Christ, baptize and teach God's Word. The Roman Catholic Church's association with governments is outside God's instructions, hence God calls this relationship "fornication" with the kings of the earth.

4. "**Inhabitants** of the earth have been made **drunk** with the wine of her **fornication**." (17:2) It is very hard to reason with a drunk person. The alcohol controls his mind so that he cannot see reason. So it is with many Catholics world wide, who are so convinced of the false doctrine of the Roman Catholic church, even though the Bible so clearly oppose it. They cannot see the truth of God's Word and salvation. They will not search the Scriptures to see if the Bible's claims are true. (Acts 17:11) They are **controlled by false doctrine**, like **alcohol controls a drunkard**, so they cannot see Bible truth.

5. She sits on **MANY WATERS**. (17:1) 17:15 tells us that "The **WATERS** which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are **peoples** and **multitudes**, and **nations** and **tongues**." The Roman Catholic church has an influence in many, if not every nation in the world.

6. She is **FULL OF NAMES OF BLASPHEMY**. (17:3) Rome claims titles and attributes which belong only to God, such as 1) "Holy Father", 2) "Father", 3) "Monsignor" = my Lord, 4) "Mother of God", 5) "Pontifex Maximus", 6) "Pope" = Father of Christians, 7) "Reverend", 8) "His Holiness", 9) "Filii Vicarii Dei" = in the place of the Son of God.

7. "The seven heads are **seven mountains** on which the woman sitteth." (17:9) Rome is well known as being built on seven hills.

8. The woman was **arrayed in purple and scarlet** color. (17:4) Popes, cardinals and priests dress in scarlet on festival occasions.

9. Decked with **gold** and **precious stones**. (17:4) Much gold and wealth is possessed by the Roman church.

10. Having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her **fornication**. 17:4. Much sexual immorality is committed by priests such as fornication, homosexuality, child molestation etc. This is hateful to God.

11. "**Mystery**". (17:5) Much mystery exists in her services. For example, Latin services, converting bread to body of Christ, how long must people spend in purgatory etc.

12. **Babylon the Great**. (17:5) Roman Catholic mother and child worship was adopted from the ancient mystery religion of Babylon's mother and child worship. As Rome conquered counties, it adopted their religions.

13. **The Mother of Harlots** (17:5) Rome has given rise to many other religions, with practices similar to herself.

14. The woman **drunken** with the **blood** of the **saints**, and with the **blood of the martyrs** of Jesus. (17:6) The Roman church has constantly persecuted, tortured, and burned at the stake, any people who disagree with Papal control and who try to break away. For example, John Huss, Savonarolla, etc.

15. **The ten horn nations** that the Roman church tries to control, turn on Rome, **hate her, strip her wealth, EAT HER FLESH**, and burn her with fire. (17:16) Eating her flesh is a very clever judgment on a system that claims to eat Christ's flesh every day. As Roman Catholicism eats Christ's flesh, so too will the antichrist eat Roman Catholicism's flesh in the future seven year Tribulation.

ERROR 32: Who Gave Us the Bible? God or the Roman Catholic Church?

The Roman Catholic Church claims that it gave us the Bible, and that it determined which books should comprise the New Testament and Old Testament.

Their argument is as follows:

"The church existed before a word of the New Testament scriptures was written. After they were written, the church determined the Canon. Therefore the church is the authoritative voice that must be obeyed, for without the church, we would not have the Bible."

"Q.17 Who can determine what books make up the Bible? Just as Christ's infallible church alone can assure us that the Bible is divinely inspired, so the church alone possesses the authority to indicate which books are included in it."

"This is Catholicism", John Walsh (Garden City, NY, Image Books, 1959) p. 177.

Is this argument correct? Did the Catholic church produce the Bible, or did it come into existence some other way?

Catholicism claims that by its authority we have the Bible, and therefore it alone is the official interpreter of scripture. If we want to know the true meaning of the Bible, we are told that we must listen to the church that gave us the Bible.

This Catholic church claim is false because:

1. The Catholic Church today with its many man made doctrines is an entirely different system as to the first century church.

2. Nowhere in the Bible does the church claim to have given us the Bible. The Bible came as follows:

From God, to the Apostles and Prophets, and then to the Churches.

The Churches submitted to the Apostles and Prophets, who submitted to God. The Bible is an **expression of the mind of God**.

The Bible is authoritative as God.

The Church is not of higher authority than God.

God gave the Bible for the church to submit to it not for the Bible to submit to the church. True, the Apostles and Prophets were part of the church, but even they submitted themselves to the Word of God.

3. The Old Testament Canon of 39 books of scripture was **established by 400 BC**, well before the Roman Catholic church was started, as seen by the Dead Sea Scrolls containing all Old Testament books except Esther.

4. **Jesus endorsed** the 39 books of Old Testament Scripture as being the authentic Word of God, well before the Roman Catholic church ever came about.

5. The **main criterion** in determining whether a book should be included in the Canon of scripture pertained to its **author**. If the author was a **known prophet of God**, his works were preserved. This was at the direction of God, not the Catholic Church. No Pope ever said: "Thus saith the Lord." The Old Testament was accepted by the people of God because it was written by the Prophets of God.

Though the **people of God** were involved in gathering these sacred writings, this never gave the people authority over or equal with the scripture.

6. By 96 AD, the early church had accepted the 27 New Testament books as canonical, as seen from early church writings. The early church accepted the scriptures because it believed them to be from God. The **early church** saw **itself** as **subject** to the **Bible's authority**, not the other way around.

The Catholic church maintains that the books comprising the New Testament Canon were determined at the Council of Carthage in 397 AD. **THIS IS INCORRECT**.

This council simply **affirmed** and **restated** what the early churches had **always accepted**.

We must not make the mistake of thinking that the Scriptures received their authority because some council made a public statement of their acceptance. The early church of pastors, deacons and people all submitted to the Bible as authority because it came from God.

Though the church existed before the New Testament was written, this does not give the church authority over or equal to the Scriptures. The church must **always** be subject to the authority of God's written Word.

7. **Israel as a nation** existed before the Old Testament was written, yet it would be **wrong** for Israel to claim authority equal to or greater than the Old Testament.

The same must apply today, that no institution (like the church, home or government, even though it is older than the New Testament) can claim authority greater than the New Testament.

8. To support its position, the Catholic church advances the error that the scriptures never claimed to be adequate to meet all our needs, based on John 21:25 "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written."

John here never hints this idea. He just says that people could write an unlimited number of commentaries on all Christ's words.

Paul says the opposite to the Roman Catholic church in 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, (not by the Roman Catholic church) and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be PERFECT, (or complete) thoroughly furnished unto ALL good works. Here the Bible can furnish us to all good works.

Peter says that the Bible is sufficient to meet all of our needs:

"His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness".

(2 Peter 1:3)

9. The procedure which God used to gather these books **did not give the collecting agency** an authority equal to the scriptures. God gave us the scriptures as our final and only authority in all matters of faith or morals.

ERROR 33: They Turn People Away From Christ to Honor Twelve Other Things

I Peter 4:14. Christians in history who were reproached for the name of Christ, were martyred, glorifying Christ by their death. The Roman Catholic Church, who martyred these Christians for their love and faith in Christ, is referred to as: "**on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified.**"

The Roman Catholic Church **speaks evil of Christ** as follows:

1. People are turned from **trusting Christ alone** to save them, to trust in **church sacraments and good works** to save them.
2. People are turned from **trusting Christ's Word, the Bible**, to trust **Catholic ideas and tradition** as the guide to life.
3. People are turned from **confessing sins directly to Christ** as mediator to confessing sins to a **priest** as mediator.
4. People are turned from trusting Christ as the sole sufficient Savior, to trust a **wafer** that is said to become Christ.
5. People are told to **pray to saints**, instead of praying to Christ.
6. People are pointed to **statues, medals and images** to protect them, instead of trusting Christ for protection.
7. People are pointed to **fear purgatory** at death, instead of looking to **Christ lovingly welcoming** them into heaven.
8. People are pointed to **pray to Mary as merciful**, and are turned away from **praying to Christ as harsh, unwelcoming and unapproachable**.
9. People are pointed to **Peter** as the **Rock** on which the church is based, and are turned away from **Christ as the Rock**.
10. People are pointed to **Popes as Pontiff** (bridge builder) instead of Christ as the only bridge to heaven. (John 14:6)
11. People are pointed to **do works of penance** and contrition to regain God's favor, instead of accepting Christ's promise of forgiveness in 1 John 1:9.
12. People are told to believe **Catholic doctrine and Papal infallibility** and to **reject Christ's speaking to their consciences** about Rome's errors and evils.

All of this is speaking evil of Christ, His Word and His work.

By turning people from Christ to other things, truly the Catholic Church is speaking evil of Christ. As such, they can be justly called an antichrist.

CONCLUSION

God says: "**COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." (Revelation 18:4)

Religion may make a person feel comfortable and righteous, but God reminds us that "all our righteousness are as filthy rages." (Isaiah 64:6) Nicodemus was one of the most religious men in Israel, yet he needed to be born again. Religion is man's efforts to reach God by good works and sacraments, but salvation is trusting in Christ's blood sacrifice on the cross as the full payment for our sins. You can be religious, yet not saved and still go to hell. Receive Christ as your Savior and you'll then become a son of God.

There are seven possible reasons why some people choose to remain in the Roman Catholic church:

1. Lack of knowledge of the Word of God.
2. Fear of rejection by family and friends.
3. Fear of going against ancestors.
4. Fear of becoming a social outcast.
5. Habit.
6. Fear of going to hell.
7. Fear of change to the unknown.

Choose Christ to save you rather than a church. Choose the Bible to guide you rather than a man made system.