

# Roman Catholicism

## What You Need To Know About Salvation

by James G. McCarthy

### The 62 Primary Errors of Roman Catholicism

*Bracketed numbers are references to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

#### The Catholic Church Teaches

1. Justification is a transformation of the soul in which original sin is removed and sanctifying grace infused [1987-1995].
2. Initial justification is by means of baptism [1262-1274].
3. Adults must prepare for justification through faith and good works [1247-1249].
4. The justified are in themselves beautiful and holy in God's sight [1992, 1999-2000, 2024].
5. Justification is furthered by sacraments and good works [1212, 1392, 2010].
6. Justification is lost through mortal sin [1033, 1855, 1874].
7. Catholics guilty of mortal sin are justified again through the sacrament of penance [980, 1446].
8. Salvation from the eternal consequences of sin is a lifelong process [161-162, 1254-1255].
9. Salvation is attained by cooperating with grace through faith, good works, and participating in the sacraments [183, 1129, 1815, 2002].
10. Faith is belief in God and the firm acceptance of all that the Church proposes for belief [181-182, 1814].
11. Sanctifying grace is a quality of the soul, a supernatural disposition that perfects the soul [1999-2000].
12. The sacraments are necessary channels for the continual infusion of grace. They bestow grace in virtue of the rite performed [1127-1129].

#### The Bible Teaches

1. Justification is an act of God in which He declares a sinner to be righteous in His sight, having forgiven his sins and imputed to him God's own righteousness (Romans 3:21-4:8).
2. Justification is by faith alone (Romans 3:28).
3. God justifies ungodly sinners who believe (Romans 4:5). Good works are the *result* of salvation, not the cause (Ephesians 2:8-10).
4. The justified are *in Christ* holy and blameless before God (Ephesians 1:1-14).
5. Justification is the imputation of the perfect righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). In Christ the believer has been made complete (Colossians 2:10).
6. Justification cannot be lost. Those whom God justifies will be saved from the wrath of God (Romans 5:8,9).
7. There is no second justification. Those whom God justifies, He also glorifies (Romans 8:30).
8. Salvation from the eternal consequences of sin is an instantaneous and secure act of God coinciding with justification (Romans 5:9).
9. Salvation is attained by grace through faith apart from works (Ephesians 2:8,9). Good works are the result, not the cause, of salvation (Ephesians 2:10).
10. Saving faith is the entrusting of oneself to Christ as Lord and Savior (Romans 10:8-17).
11. Grace is the undeserved favor of God (Ephesians 1:7,8).
12. The child of God is the constant object of the Father's grace (Romans 5:1,2).

13Grace is merited by good works [2010, 2027]. .	13Grace is a free gift (Romans 11:6). .
14Venial sins do not incur eternal punishment . [1855, 1863].	14Every sin is punishable by eternal death . (Romans 6:23).
15Serious sins must be confessed to a priest . [1456-1457].	15Sin is to be confessed directly to God (Ezra . 10:11).
16The priest forgives sin as a judge [1442, 1461]. .	16No one can forgive sin but God alone (Mark . 2:7).
17When the guilt of sin is forgiven, temporal . punishment remains [1472-1473].	17When God forgives sin, He completely forgives . (Colossians 2:13; Isaiah 43:25).
18Acts of penance make satisfaction for the . temporal punishment of sin [1434, 1459-1460].	18Jesus made perfect satisfaction for all sins (1 . John 2:1,2).
19Indulgences dispensed by the Church for acts . of piety release sinners from temporal punishment [1471-1473].	19Jesus releases believers from their sins by His . blood (Revelation 1:5).
20Purgatory is necessary to atone for sin and . cleanse the soul [1030-1031].	20Purgatory does not exist. Jesus made . purification for sins on the cross (Hebrews 1:3).
21Poor souls suffering in purgatory can be helped . by those alive on earth offering up prayers, good works, and the sacrifice of the Mass [1032, 1371, 1479].	21Those who sleep in Christ need no help. To be . absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).
22No one can know if he will attain to eternal life . [1036, 2005].	22The believer can know that he has eternal life . by the Word of God (1 John 5:13).
23Eternal life is a merited reward [1821, 2010]. .	23Eternal life is the free gift of God (Romans . 6:23).
24The Roman Catholic Church is necessary for . salvation [846].	24There is salvation in no one but the Lord Jesus . Christ, "for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

### **The 62 Primary Errors of Roman Catholicism**

*Bracketed numbers are references to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

#### **The Catholic Church Teaches**

#### **The Bible Teaches**

25The Last Supper was a real sacrifice in which . Christ's blood was poured out for our sins in the cup [610-611, 621, 1339].	25The Last Supper was a Passover meal. . Christ's blood was poured out for our sins at the cross (1 Peter 2:24).
26The bread and wine become the real body and . blood of Christ [1373-1377].	26The bread and wine are symbols of the body . and blood of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23-25).
27Christ's body and blood exist wholly and . entirely in every fragment of consecrated bread and wine in every Roman Catholic church around the world [1374, 1377].	27Christ is bodily present in heaven (Hebrews . 10:12,13).
28The consecrated bread and wine are heavenly . food which help one to attain to eternal life [1392, 1405, 1419].	28The bread and wine are symbols which help . one to remember Christ (Luke 22:19).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 29God desires that consecrated bread and wine .be worshiped as divine [1378-1381].  | 29God forbids the worship of any object, even .those intended to represent Him (Exodus 20:4,5; Isaiah 42:8).   |
| 30Christ has ordained certain men to a ministerial .priesthood to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross [1142, 1547, 1577].               | 30Christ has ordained every believer to a holy .and royal priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices, the praise of their lips, and lives yielded to God (1 Peter 2:5-10; Hebrews 13:15; Romans 12:1). |
| 31The Sacrifice of the Mass is the sacrifice of the .cross [1085, 1365-1367]. Only the manner in which it is offered is different [1367]. | 31The sacrifice of the cross is a historical event. .It occurred once, approximately 2,000 years ago, outside Jerusalem (Mark 15:21-41).   |
| 32The sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated in the .Sacrifice of the Mass [1323, 1382].   | 32The sacrifice of the cross is finished (John .19:30).  |
| 33The Mass makes Christ present in His death .and victimhood [1353, 1362, 1364, 1367, 1409].  | 33Christ cannot be made present in His death .and victimhood, for He has risen and is "alive forevermore" (Revelation 1:17,18; Romans 6:9,10).   |
| 34At each Mass, the priest re-presents to the .Father the sacrifice of Christ [1354, 1357].   | 34Christ presented the sacrifice of Himself to the .Father "once at the consummation of the ages" (Hebrews 9:24-28).   |
| 35The Mass is an unbloody sacrifice which .atones for the sins of the living and the dead [1367, 1371, 1414].                             | 35Without the shedding of blood there is no .forgiveness of sins (Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22).  |
| 36Each sacrifice of the Mass appeases God's .wrath against sin [1371, 1414].  | 36The once-for-all sacrifice of the cross fully .appeased God's wrath against sin (Hebrews 10:12-18).  |
| 37The faithful receive the benefit of the cross in .fullest measure through the Sacrifice of the Mass [1366, 1407].                       | 37Believers receive the benefits of the cross in .fullest measure in Christ through faith (Ephesians 1:3-14).  |
| 38The sacrificial work of redemption is continually .carried out through the Sacrifice of the Mass [1364, 1405, 1846].                    | 38The sacrificial work of redemption was finished .when Christ gave His life for us on the cross (Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 1:3).   |
| 39The Church is to continue the sacrifice of .Christ for the salvation of the world [1323, 1382, 1405, 1407].                             | 39The church is to proclaim the Lord's death for .the salvation of the world (1 Corinthians 11:26).  |

### **The 62 Primary Errors of Roman Catholicism**

*Bracketed numbers are references to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

#### **The Catholic Church Teaches**

#### **The Bible Teaches**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 40Mary was preserved from all stain of original .sin from the first instant of her conception (the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception) [490-492]. | 40Mary, a descendant of Adam, was born in sin .(Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12).            |
| 41Mary, "the All-Holy", lived a perfectly sinless life .[411, 493].  | 41Mary was a sinner; God alone was holy (Luke .18:19; Romans 3:23; Revelation 15:4). |
| 42Mary was a virgin before, during, and after the  | 42Mary was a virgin until the birth of Christ  |

.birth of Christ [496-511].	.(Matthew 1:25). Later she had other children (Matthew 13:55,56; Psalm 69:8).
43Mary is the Mother of God [963, 971, 2677].	43Mary was the earthly mother of Jesus (John 2:1).
44Mary is the Mother of the Church [963, 975].	44Mary is a member of the church (Acts 1:14; 1 Corinthians 12:13,27).
45Mary is the co-redeemer, for she participated .with Christ in the painful act of redemption [618, 964, 968, 970].	45Christ alone is the Redeemer, for He alone .suffered and died for sin (1 Peter 1:18,19).
46At the end of her life, Mary was assumed body .and soul into heaven (the doctrine of the Assumption) [966, 974].	46Upon her death, Mary's body returned to dust .(Genesis 3:19).
47Mary is the co-mediator to whom we can .entrust all our cares and petitions [968-970, 2677].	47Christ Jesus is the one mediator to whom we .can entrust all our cares and petitions (1 Timothy 2:5; John 14:13,14; 1 Peter 5:7).
48We should entrust ourselves to Mary, .surrendering " 'the hour of our death' wholly to her care" [2677].	48We should entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus, .surrendering the hour of our death wholly to His care (Romans 10:13; Acts 4:12).
49God has exalted Mary in heavenly glory as .Queen of Heaven and Earth [966]. She is to be praised with special devotion [971, 2675].	49The name of the Lord is to be praised, for He .alone is exalted above heaven and earth (Psalm 148:13). God commands, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3).

### **The 62 Primary Errors of Roman Catholicism**

*Bracketed numbers are references to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

#### **The Catholic Church Teaches**

#### **The Bible Teaches**

50Peter was the head of the apostles [552, 765, .880].	50Christ was the head of the apostles (John 13:13).
51The bishops are the successors of the apostles .[861-862, 938].	51The apostles had no successors, for to .succeed them one needed to be a witness of Christ's resurrection (Acts 1:21,22).
52The Pope, as the Bishop of Rome, is the .successor of Peter [882, 936].	52Peter had no successor.
53The bishops, with the Pope as their head, rule .the universal Church [883, 894-896].	53Christ, the head of the body, rules the universal .church (Colossians 1:18).
54God has entrusted revelation to the Roman .Catholic bishops [81, 86].	54God has entrusted revelation to the saints .(Jude 3).
55The Magisterium is the authoritative teacher of .the Church [85-87].	55The Holy Spirit is the authoritative teacher of .the church (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 John 2:27).
56The Magisterium is the infallible interpreter of .Scripture [890-891, 2034-2035].	56Scripture is the only infallible interpreter of .Scripture (Acts 17:11).
57The Pope is infallible in his authoratative .teaching [891].	57God alone is infallible (Numbers 23:19).
58The Magisterium alone has the ability and the	58Every Christian, aided by the Holy Spirit, has

.right to interpret Scripture [85, 100, 939].	.the ability and the right to interpret Scripture (Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16).
59Scripture is to be interpreted in the sense in which it has been defined by the Magisterium [113, 119].	59Scripture must be interpreted in the original sense intended by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 3:14-16).
60The Magisterium has the right to define truth found only obscurely or implicitly in revelation [66, 88, 2035, 2051].	60No one has the right to go beyond what is written in Scripture (1 Corinthians 4:6; Proverbs 30:6).
61Scripture and Tradition together are the Word of God [81, 85, 97, 182].	61Scripture is the Word of God (John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21). Tradition is the words of men (Mark 7:1-13).
62Scripture and Tradition together are the Church's supreme rule of faith [80, 82].	62Scripture is the church's rule of faith (Mark 7:7-13; 2 Timothy 3:16,17).