

# Five Basic Postulates Of Protestantism



Five basic differences between Bible following Christians and Roman Catholics.

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## Counterfeit Christianity



To discover those who destroy true Christian teaching, you must look behind the banner of Christ they brazenly flourish. In this way you can expect to find the Antichrist usurping the place of Christ.

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## The Tyranny Of Priestly Celibacy



At ordination secular priests merely signify that they accept the Church's condition for ordination that they will not get legally married. They take no vow of chastity, that is, they make no explicit promise to refrain from sexual relations.

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## Summary of TRUE Church History By Jim Searcy



The false church

This article is a re-post from <https://www.jimsearcy.com/ChurchHistory.htm>.

The early Church understood apostolic doctrine to mean the written Word of the Apostles, as it was contained in the Scriptures, in accord with the Old Testament, and given final revelation by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, the very I AM, who taught Moses. That is worth repeating, and is the basis for understanding True Church History.

From the very beginning, even from before all of the Apostles had been martyred, the writings of people like Polycarp, and Clement made clear and explicit, that ONLY the Scriptures, Old Testament, Gospels, and letters of the Apostles, and the Revelation given by John, was the authority for right and true teaching of doctrine. Only the Scriptures were to be the defense of the truth against heresy. The writings of the men who were direct disciples of the Apostles literally breathe with the Spirit of the Old and New Testaments. This may be seen in the writings of the disciples like Justin Martyr, and Athenagoras, in the second through fourth centuries.

There is no appeal in any of these writings to the authority of a verbal or extra-biblical tradition as a separate and independent body of revelation. The first writings ever to mention the concept of apostolic tradition were the writings of Irenaeus and Tertullian in the mid to late second century. The clear meaning of that word "tradition" as they used and intended the term, was the teaching of the Apostles, the oral communication of what had been written by the Apostles. Irenaeus and Tertullian state emphatically, that all the teachings of the bishops that were given orally, were rooted in

Scripture, and could be proven from the written Scriptures. Both men give the actual doctrinal content of the apostolic teaching that was orally preached in the Churches. It is very explicit that ALL of their doctrine was derived from Scripture. There was no doctrine in what they refer to as apostolic "tradition" that is not found in Scripture. In other words, the apostolic tradition, defined by Irenaeus and Tertullian, is simply the teaching of Scripture. It was Irenaeus who stated that while the Apostles at first preached orally, their teaching was later committed to writing, and the Scriptures had since that day become the pillar and ground of the Church's faith.



The true church!

Even in the first century there was available to the believers a substantial part of the New Testament. The four Gospels were known and read in the Churches. The letters of the Apostles Paul, and Peter, were circulated and used, even while the Apostles lived.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND AND KNOW that these New Testament books did NOT become authoritative because they were being formally accepted as Scripture by any Church or group of Churches. These New Testament books were AUTHORITATIVE, because, the believers received them as inspired by the witness of the indwelling Holy Spirit. It was indeed by the witness of the Holy Spirit of Truth, BY WHICH the believers KNEW, and did positively recognize, as the very Word of God. From the early writings, it is clear that the believers, by the Holy Ghost, KNEW the life of Christ Jesus, and His role as the final and full revelation of God. That same accepted KNOWLEDGE by the Holy Spirit of Truth was, and remains to this day, the very same New Testament canon. It expressed the final prophetic Word of grace and truth, given just as the Apostle Paul had said, to open his epistle to Messianic Jewish Believers: God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.

God's people, in the first three centuries after Christ, universally accepted what we now know as the New Testament. Those who would say otherwise are unlearned, or deceived. The believers in the first three centuries, by the Holy Spirit of Truth, received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the very Word of God. Yes, there were some controversies over individual books. However, these did, by the working of the same Spirit of Truth, solidly confirm the New Testament Scriptures. In fact, the controversies ultimately helped establish the certainty that the BELIEVERS in the first three centuries, after the birth of Messiah, INDEED DID HAVE God's final Written Word, which was ONCE delivered unto the saints.

The disciples of the Lord universally knew the contents of the canon of the New Testament well before the local Council of Hippo formally accepted it in

393A.D, and before the provincial Council of Carthage in 397A.D.

The Christian faith rapidly extended throughout the known world during the first three centuries. The main reason for such a rapid spreading of the Christian faith should be recognized as the sovereign will, and divine intervention, of God. However, we should also be aware that by the same Holy Spirit of God, there was, in the Preachers of the Doctrine of the Apostles, a Holy faithfulness and zeal. Common among the preachers of the Gospel in those first three centuries were the heroic deaths of the martyrs, and the translation of the Scriptures into the languages of the Roman world.

Under Emperor Septimius Severus (193-211) Christians suffered great persecution. However, the most severe persecution was under the Emperor Diocletian and his co-regent, Galerius, during the years 303-311. The historian Philip Schaff states that, "all copies of the Bible were to be burned; all Christians were to be deprived of public office and civil rights; and last, all, without exception, were to sacrifice to the gods upon pain of death."

Though Lucifer and his advocates love to kill, and persecute Christians, as any history written outside of Vatican Roma's control clearly will show, persecution, torture, and murder of real Christians, by no means could, or will ever, exterminate the True Christians, and the Gospel. Though today, as of July 10, 2007, Vatican Roma seems ready to again crank up her infamous inquisition, honest history will show that Vatican Roma's persecution purified those who preached. The history of persecution by the Roman church, of the True Christian, and only True Faith, increased the ability of BELIEVERS to give the Gospel message.

The Vaudois is the name of the best French Bible. The history of the Vaudois people is the history of a people who withdrew from the areas in and around Rome to the valleys of the Cottian Alps during the persecutions of the early Church. These Bible believers always held to the Scriptures as their ONLY authority. This was evident in their faith, and practice for centuries, dating back to the persecutions of the Roman emperor Diocletian. The testimony of their lives over the centuries shows that the Vaudois, and others, had chosen to follow the authority of the Bible as their Rule of Life.

One solid fact of True Church History is that "people of the book," as Islam calls Jews and true Christians are persecuted. People of the book are vilified, and the persecution of them minimized if not even justified, in the history one finds under the influence, and control, of Vatican Roma.

Vatican Roma's help, favor, and control of Islam, is obvious in paragraph #841 of the latest version of the Roman Catholic Catechism. That infamous paragraph #841 states – The Church's relationship with the Muslims. "The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day." (Latest Catechism which includes the corrections by Pope John Paul II on 8 September 1997.)

In these last days of strong delusion it is good to know the history of how Vatican Roma put Muhammad in the religion business and controls Islam to this day. The popes of Rome have always wanted to possess the city of Jerusalem. Because of its religious history and its strategic location, the Holy City was considered a priceless treasure. A scheme had to be developed to make Jerusalem a Roman Catholic city. The great untapped source of manpower that could do this job was the children of Ishmael. The poor Arabs fell victim to one of the most clever plans ever devised by the powers of darkness.

Early Christians went everywhere with the gospel setting up small churches, but they met heavy opposition. Both the Jews and the pagan Roman government persecuted the believers in Christ to stop their spread. But the Jews rebelled against Rome, and in 70 AD, Roman armies under General Titus smashed Jerusalem and destroyed the great Jewish temple, which was the heart of Jewish worship. This quite literally fulfilled the prophecy of the Lord Jesus Christ given in Matt 24:2.

Corruption, apathy, greed, cruelty, perversion, and rebellion were eating away at the Roman Empire, and it was ready to collapse. The persecution against Christians was useless as they continued to lay down their lives for the gospel of Christ. The only way Satan could stop the spread of the Gospel, and the establishment of true apostolic Biblical Churches, was to create a counterfeit so-called Christian religion.

Rome brought about this great counterfeit "Christian" religion with the first sovereign pontiff, the Roman Emperor Constantine. Constantine's religion was the religion of Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tamuz. It was the religion with the sun god, the queen of heaven, and son of the queen of heaven, the religion of Babylon. The ancient Babylonian religion's deities took on many names in many different cultures and countries. The favorite flavor of this Babylon religion of pagan Rome, at the time of the first supreme pontiff Constantine, was Mithraism. The religion of pagan Roma had come from Babylon and all it needed was a face-lift of applying Christian terms to that religion. This did not happen immediately, but began in the writings of the early so-called church fathers.

It was through their writings that a new religion would take shape. The statue of Jupiter in Rome was eventually called St. Peter, and the statue of Venus was called the Virgin Mary. The site chose for the headquarters of this new form of pagan Roman counterfeit Christianity was one of the seven hills of Rome called Vaticanus, the place of the diving serpent where the Satanic temple of Janus stood.

The great counterfeit religion, Roman Catholicism, called MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH – Rev 17:5. Satan, the god of all false religions, raised up this Roman counterfeit religion of Babylon with Christian terms to block the Gospel, slaughter the believers in Christ, establish new false religions, create wars, and make the nations drunk with the wine of her spiritual fornication.

Rev 17:1-6 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the

judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

The greatest of the daughter harlots of the MOTHER OF HARLOTS is ISLAM.

### **The creation of Islam**

Before Vatican Roma put Mohammad in the religion business pagan Arabs would bring gifts to what they believed was the House of God, the Kaaba in Mecca. The keepers of the Kaaba were gracious to receive the gifts of all of the Arabs making pilgrimage to the Kaaba. Some brought their idols, and not wanting to offend these people, their idols were placed inside the Kaaba sanctuary. The Jews of Mecca were said to have looked upon the Kaaba as an outlying tabernacle of the Lord until it became polluted with idols.

There were Arab tribal wars over the well at the Kaaba called Zamzam, and the treasure of the Kaaba. The valuable offerings of the pilgrims were dumped down into the well during one of these tribal war periods and the well was filled with sand, where it disappeared in a sandstorm. Many years later Adb Al-Muttalib was given visions telling him where to find the well and its treasure. He became very wealthy and the hero of Mecca when he found that well and the treasure of the Kaaba which it contained. Adb Al-Muttalib was the grandfather of Muhammad.

Before this time, Augustine became the bishop of North Africa and had limited success in winning Arabs to Vatican Roma's adulterated Christianity. Vatican Roma's religion was more and more becoming identical to the pagan Babylon religion except for its Christian terminology. Among these Arab converts to Vatican Roma's religion Augustine promoted the concept of looking for an Arab prophet. Augustine, as all bishops of Vatican Roma, paid particular attention to the wealthy. Pre-eminent among the wealthy Arabs of this time was the grandfather of Muhammad.

Muhammad's father died several months before the birth of Muhammad. The sons of wealthy Arab families in places like Mecca were sent into the desert to be nursed until about age four, and spend several more years of childhood with Bedouin tribes for training and to avoid the plagues and very high infant child mortality in the cities. The watchful eyes of Vatican Roma, particularly watchful of the wealthy, noted the grandchild of Adb Al-Muttalib was born with a birthmark on his back. Muhammad's mother died when he was six, and he was in the care of his grandfather Adb Al-Muttalib until his grandfather died when he was nine. Muhammad then came under the care of his

uncle. One of Augustine's monks met Muhammad and his uncle in a caravan and asked if he could see the child's back, and then proclaimed this is the mark of the prophet. The monk of Vatican Roma warned Muhammad's uncle to "Take your brother's son back to his country and guard him against the Jews, for by god, if they see him and know of him that which I know, they will kill him. Great things are in store for this brother's son of yours." So agents of Vatican Roma instilled Muhammad's Jew hate and bigotry from the time when he was just nine years old.

Indeed history has shown how very effective was this ploy of Vatican Roma's monk to fan the flames for future Jewish persecutions at the hands of the followers of Muhammad. The Vatican desperately wanted Jerusalem because of its religious significance, but was blocked by the Jews.

Another major problem of Vatican Roma's Christianized paganism at this time was the large number of true Christians in North Africa who preached THE Gospel. The Roman religion was growing in power, and would not tolerate opposition. Somehow Vatican Roma had to create a weapon to eliminate both the Jews and the true New Testament gospel believers who refused to accept Vatican Roma's brand of Christianized Babylonian paganism.

In North Africa, Vatican Roma saw multitudes of Arabs who had not been converted from their Arabian paganism to Roman paganism nor had they become Christians. This was the source of the manpower to do Vatican Roma's dirty work of killing Jews and Christians. Jews and Christians are known as "people of the book," in Muhammad's religion of Islam's holy book, called the Koran. Some Arabs had become Roman Catholic, and could be used in a spy network for Vatican Roma's master plan to control the great multitudes of Arabs who rejected the Roman brand of paganism with Christian terms. Augustine had good intelligence. His monasteries served as bases to seek out and destroy Bible manuscripts owned by the true Christians of North Africa.

Vatican Roma wanted to create a messiah for the Arabs, someone they could raise up as a great leader, a man with charisma whom they would train, and eventually unite all the non-Catholic Arabs behind him. The great Arab leader would create a mighty army that would ultimately capture Jerusalem for the pope.

A wealthy Arabian lady who was a faithful follower of the pope played a tremendous part in this plan. She was a widow named Khadijah. She entrusted her wealth to Vatican Roma's religion and retired to a convent, and there was given an assignment. She was to find a brilliant young man who could be used by the Vatican to create a new religion and become the messiah for the children of Ishmael. Khadijah had a cousin named Waraquah, who was also faithful to Vatican Roma, and he was placed in a critical role as Muhammad's advisor. He had tremendous influence on Muhammad.

Teachers were sent to young Muhammad and he had intensive training in the writings of Augustine the top bishop of Vatican Roma in all of North Africa. Muhammad studied the writings of Augustine, which prepared him for his great calling. Vatican Roma had Arabs across North Africa spread the story of a great one who was about to rise up among the Arab people and be the chosen

one of their God.

While Muhammad was being prepared, he was told that his enemies were the Jews and that the only true Christians were Roman Catholics. He was taught that others calling themselves Christians were actually wicked impostors and should be destroyed. Many Muslims believe this. Though most Roman Catholics are too nice to say so, they believe this too.

Some of the more mystical aspects of Vatican Roma's program are designed to lead to questionable spiritual experiences, which do not get tested. Muhammad began receiving what he thought were divine revelations. His wife's Catholic cousin Waraquah was always right there with the interpretation according to the plan Vatican Roma had for Muhammad. Eventually these revelations with Waraquah's interpretations would result in the Koran. Sura Nine, the Immunity Sura is what the Koran really teaches. All of the rest of the Koran is to provide plausible deniability to the Satanic teaching of the Koran. Everything in the Koran abrogates to Sura Nine and that one sura supersedes whatever else the Koran may teach, because the Immunity sura was the last sura of Muhammad.

Anyone desiring to know the teaching of Islam only needs to read that one Immunity sura. EVERYTHING else in the Koran abrogates to that sura nine and NOTHING in that sura nine can be abrogated away. Knowing what is said in that one sura without all of the other suras which are only there to hide the central core teaching of the Koran gives one better understanding of Islam than those who teach it.

In the fifth year of Muhammad's mission, persecution came against his followers because they refused to worship the idols in the Kaaba. They fled to Abyssinia or Ethiopia where King Negus, a Roman Catholic king received them because Muhammad's views on the Virgin Mary were so close to Roman Catholic regarding the queen of heaven. The only place where Muhammad's writings about the Virgin Mary could have come is Augustine, for that doctrine was unique to Augustine at that time and did not become universal Roman Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception that Mary was born of a virgin mother, until 1854. King Negus and Muhammad both worshipped the queen of heaven.

Muhammad later conquered Mecca and the Kabba was cleared of idols. It is a well established fact of history that before Islam came into existence, the Sabeans in Arabia worshipped the moon-god. Allah's wife gave birth to three goddesses who were worshipped throughout the Arab world as the "Daughters of Allah." An idol excavated at Hazor in Palestine in the 1950's shows Allah sitting on a throne with the crescent moon on his chest. Because Allah has always been the moon god of Arabia is why one finds crescent moons on every mosque, and so many Muslim emblems. Allah, the moon god of Arabia was worshipped in Arabia for a thousand years before Muhammad was born. Allah is one of the many aliases of Satan. One also should not fail to notice how often the crescent moon is associated with various paintings and statues of the Virgin Mary.

Muhammad claimed he had a vision from Allah where Allah sent the angel



Gabriel with the message – You are the messenger of Allah. This launched Muhammad's prophet career as the self-fulfilling prophecy he had gotten from the monk of Vatican Roma when he was nine. By the time Muhammad died, the religion of Islam was exploding. The nomadic Arab tribes were joining forces in the name of Allah and his prophet, Mohammad.

Some of Muhammad's revelations were recorded and placed in the Koran, and others were never published. The unpublished ones are now in the hands of high-ranking Ayatollahs in the Islam. These writings, which are not in the Koran are guarded, because they contain information that links the Vatican to the creation of Islam. Both Vatican Roma and Islam have so much information on each other that if exposed, could create such a scandal that it would be a disaster for both religions. This truth about Islam was given by no less authority than what Cardinal Augustine Bea had to say regarding Vatican Roma's creation and control of Islam.

In the so-called holy book of Islam, The Lord Jesus Christ is regarded as only a prophet. If the pope of Vatican Roma was His representative on earth, then he also must be a prophet of God. This caused the followers of Muhammad to fear and respect the pope as another holy man.

When the Arabs became unified under the banner of Muhammad, the Vatican pope moved quickly and issued bulls granting the Arab generals permission to invade and conquer the nations of North Africa. Vatican Roma helped to finance the building of these massive Islamic armies in exchange for three favors:

1. Eliminate the Jews and Bible believing Christians, which the Muslims called infidels.
2. Protect the Augustinian Monks, and the Roman Catholics and their shrines, churches, and properties.
3. Conquer Jerusalem for the pope and Vatican Roma.

Soon the power of the Islamic armies became tremendous. Jews and Bible believing Christians were slaughtered, and Jerusalem was conquered. Roman Catholics were never attacked; their churches, shrines, and properties were not touched. However, when the pope asked for Jerusalem he was shocked that the Arab generals said NO. The Islamic generals had become so powerful that the pope could not control them. The Islamic armies began their conquests with the help and plans of Vatican Roma; but, now they had their own plan.

Waraqah directed Muhammad to have the Koran say that Abraham offered Ishmael, and not Isaac, as a sacrifice on Mt. Mariah. Muhammad contradicted the Holy Bible, which explicitly says Isaac was to be sacrificed, but the Muhammad's Koran would substitute Ishmael's name for Isaac, and assert the biblical record to be in error. As a result of this and Muhammad's vision, the Muslims built a mosque and shrine, the Dome of the Rock, in Ishmael's honor, on the site of the Jewish Temple that was destroyed by the Roman armies in 70 AD. This made Jerusalem the 3rd most holy place of pilgrimage for the Muslims behind Mecca and Medina.

Vatican Roma realized what they had created was out of control when the Arab generals and their Muslims began referring to the pope as an infidel. The Muslim generals were determined to conquer the world for Allah, and had set their sights on conquering Europe.

Representatives of the Muslim generals went to the Vatican and asked for papal bulls to give them permission to invade Europe. The Roman pope was outraged. War was inevitable. The pope considered the temporal power and control of the world to be the exclusive right of Vatican Roma's pope. The Muslim generals of the armies of Muhammad, which Vatican Roma had put in business for killing the enemies of the Vatican, now threatened Vatican Roma. The pope would not think of sharing his power over the world with the Muslims who Vatican Roma had established for the popes purposes, and that the pope considered to be heathens.

The pope quickly raised up Vatican Roma's armies for the pope's Crusades against the rebellious Muslim heathens. In no way was the pope going to allow the Muslim generals to take over Catholic Europe. The Crusades lasted for centuries and the prize of Jerusalem, which Vatican Roma always desired, always managed to stay free of the pope's control.

Turkey fell, which caused many Greek-speaking Christians to flee to the West with their Greek Scriptures. The Western Roman Empire, prior to the fall of Constantinople in 1453, had only Latin scriptures, carefully revised and absolutely controlled by Vatican Roma.

The Muslim armies invaded Spain and Portugal. In Portugal, the Muslim armies named a mountain village FATIMA in honor of Muhammad's daughter. In no way could anyone at that time ever think the village of Fatima would become world famous.

In 849 AD the great Arab Muslim fleet was set to invade Italy from Sardinia. When the Muslim fleet appeared on the horizon, Vatican Roma's fleet defeated the Muslims. However, Muslims occupied Sicily for nearly three centuries from 812 up until 1071 AD.

With the invasion of Spain and Portugal the Muslim generals realized that they were too far extended. The Muslim generals realized that it was time for seeking terms of peace. Francis of Assisi negotiated peace with the Muslim generals for Vatican Roma. The terms of peace brokered by Francis of Assisi were that the Muslims were allowed to occupy Turkey and Vatican Roma's Catholics were allowed to occupy Lebanon in the Arab world. It was also agreed that Muslims could build mosques in Catholic countries without interference, as long as Roman Catholicism could be allowed to flourish in Muslim countries. This is why one so often may find churches of Vatican Roma in the same neighborhoods as mosques in so many regions of the world.

Vatican Roma and the Muslims agreed to continue efforts to block, thwart, and destroy their common enemy, the people of the book, Jews and Bible believing Christians. By way of these concordats of Vatican Roma with Islam, Satan, the god of all false religions, has effectively blocked the now almost one BILLION children of Ishmael from knowledge of the truth of the Word of God.

Vatican Roma has maintained a light and invisible control of Islam on Muslims from the highest-ranking Ayatollah on down, through the Islamic clerics. Vatican Roma has always done everything possible to inflame hatred between Muslim Arabs and Jews, which prior to the Vatican putting Muhammad in his religion business, had lived peacefully together.

Muslims are taught to view Bible believing missionaries as the devil incarnate, which are sent to poison the children of Allah. This is why, up until recently, the ministry of missionaries in Muslim countries, aside from being difficult and often leading to martyrdom, has born so little fruit. However, with the global access to the truth provided by the internet, this is changing. By the Muslim's own statistics, there are 16,000 Muslims per day forsaking Islam to become Bible believing Christians.

Bible believing Christians have a mandate and duty of love toward the Muslims. All Christians are to participate in the great commission, and that great commission definitely applies to Muslims. It is the duty of love to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in The Lord Jesus Christ.

However, Vatican Roma's original plan to use Islam to kill people of the book, continues to this day.

## **The Vision at Fatima Portugal**

In 1910, Portugal was going Socialistic and Vatican Roma was facing a major problem. There were rapidly increasing numbers forsaking the religion of Vatican Roma and actually becoming hostile in rebellion to the bondage of the Vatican. This brought about perhaps the greatest display of Vatican Roma's religious showmanship in history, and even facilitated Vatican Roma's victory over the Russian Orthodox Church. This great Vatican Roman display of religious showmanship took place in Fatima Portugal, and has been very instrumental in strengthening Vatican Roma's control of Islam.

In 1917, the Virgin appeared in Fatima, and the Mother of God show there was one of Vatican Roma's greatest successes. Mary appeared in Fatima to three shepherd children calling herself "Lady of the Rosary." The Fatima appearances instantly became world famous due to their elements of prophecy with regard to the possibility of world war and the conversion of Orthodox Soviet Russia to Roman Catholicism. Vatican Roma was quick to declare the apparitions at Fatima "worthy of belief" and quickly put the Vatican's massive resources in the media in to high gear.

The message of the apparition of Mary was that three secrets were to be given about future world events, and that praying the rosary every day, and saying the rosary many times, was the key to personal and WORLD peace. This was a resonating message since so many young men of Portugal, and the rest of Europe, were then fighting in World War I. Within months thousands of people were flocking to Fatima.

In addition to the three secrets of Fatima a miracle of the sun was promised.

The great worldwide publicity of Fatima brought about an immediate major defeat for the Socialists in Portugal. Within months the pope announced a very highly promoted trip, the pope had planned to visit Fatima. When the pope made his highly published plans to be at Fatima for the October 13th final apparition, anticipation to see the highly promoted miracle of the sun, caused a crowd estimated to be over 70,000 to assemble at Fatima for the pope's visit and final third apparition. Only the pope could see the miracle of the sun in its fullness. Of the 70,000 witnesses there were 70,000 different descriptions of what the people saw in the miracle of the sun. It did not seem hard for anyone to believe that only the pope, and not even the three shepherds, could see the miracle of the sun in its perfection and fullness. Yes, one could call it a strong delusion, but all seemed to trust what the pope said he saw, was sort of like what they saw. There was no physical evidence of the miracle of the sun, no one got any photographs of the sun doing miraculous things. The majority today suspect the combination of an anticipated miracle of the sun, and the excitement of the pope being right there to help, combined with the unusual rainy, cloudy, and sunny day, and great religious fervor of the large crowd, to be conducive to mass hallucination. However, it was so convenient of the pope to be there to clarify and certify the miracle of the sun.

Roman Catholics world wide began praying for the conversion of Russia and the Jesuits invented the Novenas to Fatima, which when done throughout North Africa, produced great public relations between Vatican Roma and the Muslim world. Today there are often times more Muslim pilgrims to Fatima than there are Roman Catholic pilgrims. The Muslim Arabs thought the Novenas to Fatima were honoring the daughter of Muhammad. That is exactly what the Jesuits wanted the Muslims to believe.

As a result of the vision of Fatima, Pope Pius XII ordered his Nazi army to crush Russia and the Russian Orthodox religion to make Russia Roman Catholic. Hitler, and the entire German army which fought on the Russian front, can testify the pope was mistaken and not infallible in his conclusions and direction to the Nazi army from that particular part of his vision of the miracle of the sun at Fatima.

In fairness it should be pointed out that it was several years after he lost World War II that Pope Pius XII shocked the world with his FULL revelation of the dancing sun miracle keeping Fatima in the news. It was truly great religious showmanship and the world eagerly consumed and embraced the pope's private interpretations of the miracle of the sun at Fatima. It should be surprising to everyone, but seems to surprise no one, that the only one to really see the vision and miracle was Pope Pius XII. Nevertheless, the pope's revelation of the vision as only he could see it, has produced a huge world wide group of followers known as the Blue Army. The Blue Army has millions of faithful Roman Catholics ready to die for the blessed virgin.

## **Project Blue Beam**

Project Blue Beam is something that is good for everyone to know about. Here is a link – <http://www.moresureword.com/bluebeam.htm> We must remember that the new global RELIGION lead by the pope, who is the second beast, positional

false prophet of the antichrist, is the very foundation for the new world government. Without the Luciferian global religion the antichrist dictatorship of the New World Order is completely impossible. That is why the Project Blue Beam is so important to the antichrist Luciferians, and why it has been so well hidden.

The Jesuits of Vatican Roma have their Virgin Mary scheduled to appear four or five times in China, Russia, the US and other parts of the world. The apparitions at Fatima marked a turning point for hundreds of millions of Muslims. After the death of his daughter Fatima, Muhammad wrote that she "is the most holy of all women in Paradise, next to Mary." The majority of Muslims are led to believe that the Virgin Mary chose to be known as Our Lady of Fatima as a sign and a pledge that the Muslims who believe in Christ's virgin birth will come to believe in His divinity. That is a large part of the reason why there are so many Muslims, who today are open to receive the Gospel. Ex-Muslims just like Ex-Roman Catholics, make some of the most earnest contenders for THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS.

Yes, according to the Muslims own statistics, 16,000 per day. They make such good Bible believing Christians because they MUST count the cost. Muslims know how rigidly the death penalty is enforced on any Muslim who forsakes Islam to become "one of the people of the book" whom all one billion Muslims are religiously duty bound to kill.

Gal 1:8-9 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

There may have been a time when those who were Roman Catholics might possibly have been saved. That possibility came to an end in June of 1963, when the highest possible Satanic ceremony was conducted in the Vatican and simultaneously in the top freemason temple. That highest of all Satanic ceremonies is known as the ENTHRONEMENT OF THE FALLEN ARCHANGEL LUCIFER. Details regarding that important event are available near the bottom of this important link – <http://www.moresureword.com/GASstones.htm>

This short history should explain why this infamous paragraph #841 is in the Roman Catholic Catechism:

841 The Church's relationship with the Muslims.

"The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day."

## **Paulicianism**

A look at what most call Paulicianism might be more valuable than giving any further mention of Islam in this summary of True Church History. The history of the Christians, called Paulicians by their enemies, really illustrates the

point of how revised and wrested one will find the majority of Church History under the control of Vatican Roma. It is sad, but typical, that most of the information concerning the Paulicians comes through their enemies.

Paulicianism was a Christian sect that flourished between 650 and 872 in the Byzantine Empire. They called themselves Christians, and others gave them the name Paulicians. Some also have supposed that the Paulician name was derived from their obvious respect for the Apostle Paul. When one would look at their own writings, rather than what their enemies reported and revised about them, we find great difference.

Their real identification however, is that they were people who held the Scriptures as the only and highest authority for living, faith, and doctrine. Their own writings show this high honor for the Gospels, and the letters of the Apostles, and how strongly they adhered to BOTH the Old and New Testaments. This is very much the opposite of the Popery of Vatican Roma, and the Patriarchy of the Greek Orthodox Church.

The Paulicians had baptism by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ, failing to baptize in the name of the Trinity, which is so often reported by their enemies. According to their own writings, only adults 30 years of age or over were eligible for baptism, since this was the age Christ was baptized. The person that performed the baptism had to be pure of heart in order for the baptism to be considered valid.

The Paulicians strongly opposed any formalism, ritualism, and pomp. This obviously would make them enemies of both Vatican Roma and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchy. The empress Theodora killed, drowned, or hanged, more than 100,000 Paulicians in Grecian Armenia. The majority of the remaining Christians of this group who held to the Scriptures, and stood against ritualism, and against icons, and against saint veneration, and incense, and ritual priestcraft, had to flee from the area of Armenia. These Christians, named Paulicians by their enemies, were FALSELY called Manichaeans or Dualists.

By far the largest group of them, perhaps over 200,000 of them survived by fleeing to Europe. They fled out of the frying pan of the Greek Orthodox persecution, into the fires of Vatican Roma's persecutions.

The vast majority of those writing about the Paulicians seem never to have thought to look at the writings of the Paulicians themselves. Almost all of what I have seen written about them is from sources known to be the enemies of the Paulicians. However, their own writings are available, which prove the very common FALSE accusation that they were dualists, or Manichaeans. One of the very few reporting truth regarding the Paulicians, from the study of their own writings, rather than the writings of their enemies, was Fred Conybeare. An ancient Paulician manuscript, The Key of Truth, was discovered in Armenia in 1891. The translator, Fred Conybeare, said "I found NOTHING that savoured of these ancient heresies, of the Manicheans. Mani was anathematized by the Paulician Church." (The Key of Truth, Conybeare, 1898, pg. vi, cxxxi) "The Paulicians are not Dualists in any other sense than the New Testament was dualistic." (pg. xxxvi) "The Old Testament is not

rejected." (pg. xxxvii).

Just because certain Gnostics left some True Christian Church group and formed a heretical group, does NOT necessarily mean that the Christian group that they left, or which expelled them for heresy, was heretical. However, Vatican Roma is often found pinning the label of obvious Gnostic heretics, on the group that actually expelled them for their heresy.

By the early tenth century, the Paulicians had a common history as the Waldenses of being mercilessly persecuted by the Roman Church. The Waldenses were purified, and even strengthened, by the persecution of the Popes of Rome, and Patriarchs of Constantinople. The Waldenses were known for always having and holding, as the final authority, the Orthodox Scriptures. They adhered to the Scriptures which God had promised BOTH plenary inspiration, AND preservation. Through their protection, and preservation, and preaching of the More Sure Words of the Scriptures, they made many converts to true biblical faith. It was in the French and Swiss Alps that the Paulicians and Waldenses were most deeply rooted.

The faith of the Paulicians from their own writings is clearly seen as the same as that among the Waldenses. The Popes persecuted them doing everything possible to wipe out every literary trace of them. Yet, God obviously did not allow them to be destroyed, though all suffered persecution, and many did lose their life in defense of the Gospel, and their precious Scriptures, under the persecutions of Vatican Roma. The Waldense, Paulician, and Vaudois, Scriptures are traceable all the way back to the Antioch missionaries, as far back as 150 AD. There is astonishing perfect agreement to the KJV English Scriptures.

It is important to note that a specific founding goal of Rome's Jesuit Order is to destroy those Scriptures. Today essentially that means ONLY the KJV, which still remains outside of Rome's control and corruption, also known as Mesorite Old Testament text and the Erasmus New Testament text, or the RECEIVED TEXTS. Indeed that is a founding goal of the Jesuits, to destroy the Erasmus Text.

The Authentic Early Church assemblies of the Waldenses of the French Alps, were persecuted, and the majority exterminated by the merciless persecution of the corrupt Roman Church. Still a persecuted, remnant escaped, fled, and were hidden and preserved. Some of them even hid by way of an external show of conformity to the Roman Catholic Church. However, there remains a traceable remnant of the Paulicians, in the face of demonically driven persecution of Vatican Roma, in those regions of southern France, and the Swiss Alps, who were preserved as they protested against the tyranny of Rome. As honest history, not revised by Rome, always attests the True Church held the Scriptures that are amazingly the same as the KJV Holy Bible, as their rule of life, faith, doctrine, and practice. They would allow only the Scriptures to keep their beliefs pure and free from all the visions of the Gnostic theology. The Paulicians were falsely accused of being Manichaeans, and there has been much historic prejudice against them. However, history free of Roman Catholic, and Greek Orthodox revision, has allowed it to be proven that the Paulicians were not Manichaeans.

## The Waldenses

Study of the doctrines and practices of the Waldenses finds that they made constant use of BOTH the Old and New Testaments. They obviously hated, what Jesus said He hates, that Nicolaitanes spirit of Vatican Roma. Rev 2:6 & 15. They had no clergy distinction from laymen by the way they lived, dressed, or in any other manner. They had NO councils, magisteriums, or rulings of doctors, rabbis, esteemed teachers, or seminaries. Their teachers were of equal rank. They obviously were against such. They obviously were diligent to ALL live according to the simplicity of the apostolic life. They opposed all image worship, which was practiced in Vatican Roma, and the so-called Eastern Orthodox Churches. They considered such things as miracle empowered relics as just a rubbish heap of bones and ashes, with less than any virtue, and in fact held them to be abominable. They held to the biblical doctrine and Orthodox view of the Trinity. Yes, for all the Yachidites, and so-called Oneness Brethren, the doctrine of the TRINITY is BIBLICAL, and traceable to the Apostles by the Scriptures, and such historically persecuted saints. They upheld the biblical view of fallen, unregenerate, depraved and sinful human nature. They recognized the sufferings of the Son of God as their ONLY, and blessed Hope of Salvation, through REPENTANCE, and FAITH, in Him ONLY.

The Vaudois are traceable to 150 AD, and most students of Church History would say existed within a few decades from apostolic times. They are sometimes called Waldenses, after the name of one of their famous leaders, Peter Waldo of Lyon, also known as Peter Valdès. It was the received opinion among the Waldenses that they were of ancient origin and truly apostolic. They claimed to possess apostolic authority by reason of the purity of their Scriptures, and the keys to binding and loosing.

Theodore Beza, the sixteenth century Reformer, and disciple of John Calvin, said, "As for the Waldenses, I may be permitted to call them the very seed of the primitive and purer Christian Church, since, they are those that have been upheld, as is abundantly manifest, by the wonderful providence of God, so that neither those endless storms and tempests by which the whole Christian world has been shaken for so many succeeding ages, and the Western part so miserably oppressed by the Bishop of Rome, falsely so called; nor those horrible persecutions which have been expressly raised against them, were able so far to prevail as to make them bend, or yield a voluntary subjection to the Roman tyranny and idolatry".

In study of the Waldenses, the most obvious thing, which one would observe about them, was holiness in their every day lifestyle. The Waldenses lived the profession of Peter that we ought to obey God rather than men. The characteristic that distinguished them was the principle that Scripture was their authority and how they sought to have all the Waldenses memorize the Holy Scriptures. To the Waldenses, long before the Reformation, they held the Holy Bible to be their living book. Though such might seem an impossibility, there were reports that there were those among the Waldenses who could quote the entire Holy Bible, both Old and New Testament from memory.

Another of the Waldenses distinguishing life principles was the importance of preaching. They believed it to be the right of ALL of the BELIEVING MEN to



exercise preaching of the Scriptures as their DUTY. Peter Waldo and his associates were preachers. Their fundamental principle basis was the Sermon on the Mount, rejection of oaths, the condemnation of purgatory, and condemnation of prayers for the dead. The Waldenses declared with Holy Boldness that cost many of them their very lives, that there are only two ways after death, the way to heaven and the way to hell.

The Waldensian movement touched many people, through many centuries. The Waldenses attracted converts from many sources, including a great number of Roman Catholics. The agreement of their French Scriptures, known as the Vaudois, with the KJV Holy Bible is both amazing and stunning proof of God's promise in Ps 12:6-7.

Peter was the Apostle to the Jews and did minister to the Churches of Asia. There is NO Scripture, or historic indication, outside of Vatican Roma's revised history and fables, that would suggest that the Apostle Peter ever set foot in Rome. That Church was planted and nurtured by Paul the apostle to the Gentiles. The expansion of Christianity in Asia was well advanced before the end of the first century. The Christian faith broke out across the borders of Rome into Asia. In the first century the true Christian faith may have spread as far as India. It is certain that it had spread east of the Euphrates and three hundred miles further east across the Tigris River, to the area of ancient Nineveh. By the end of the second century, missionary expansion had carried the Church as Far East as northern Afghanistan. It is abundantly clear from the book of Revelation that there had, by the end of the first century, been mass conversions of the Turks in Central Asia. The Seven Churches of Revelation, chapters two and three, were all located in Asia minor today known as Turkey.

Most have heard of St. Patrick and few know much of the history of this great man of God in the history of Ireland. The work of this great Gospel Preacher and his associates in Ireland is so great, in part, is because it was so very difficult. Patrick met head on against the old pagan religion of the Druids. All of the people of Ireland when Patrick began preaching the Gospel, very strongly believed in the Druids as pagan priests who mediated for them in the things of the spirit. We know of his difficulties, and disappointments from his writings, which were preserved. He resisted the powers of darkness in the priesthood of the Druids. He very obviously trusted the Lord Jesus, the Living Word, by the power of His Holy Spirit to convict people of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. From the writings of Patrick and his disciples, he understood salvation to be 100% entirely by grace from God. Over the course of 60 years, Patrick had covered the entire country of Ireland preaching the Gospel. Patrick faithfully followed the instructions given by Paul to Timothy and Titus, in ordaining elders and establishing Churches. The best estimate is that by the end of those 60 years of preaching ministry in Ireland, that there were 365 Churches across Ireland. The Churches Patrick established were after the Biblical pattern where the people were SERVED by a pastor or elder. The authority of the pastor was by and according to Scripture that of SERVICE, rather than of being served by the people.

The monasteries which Patrick established were the opposite of those

established by Vatican Roma. Patrick's monasteries were very much the same as those of the Vaudois, and other early Christian Churches of northern Italy and southern France. There, men came aside for some years to be trained in the Scriptures, and to learn how to evangelize and to bring the Gospel to others. After their time in such a set apart place, these men married and had families. They were not forsaking the world for some retreat of inner holiness, but men, who having received the new life in Christ Jesus, responded to the call to evangelize others with the true Gospel. It was because of these monasteries and the Churches that Patrick founded in Ireland, that Ireland became known as the "Isle of Saints and Scholars".

There were more than 600 years of fruitfulness in the clarity of the Gospel message so faithfully preached by Patrick and those whom he disciplined, and those they disciplined after them. Over 600 years hallmarked by SCRIPTURE faithfulness. From those churches and missionary training centers called monasteries, missionaries were sent to Scotland, France, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, and beyond. The SCRIPTURE, authority, and faithfulness of living the scriptures, were the hallmark of these later missionaries from Patrick's work as certainly as the Vaudois.

## **The Nicolatine spirit**

The Papal Roman Church is historically almost the opposite and historically found persecuting these SCRIPTURE based true believers, preachers, and those who LIVED according to the Scriptures. Rome is wealthy almost beyond comprehension having great political power. Rome also exercised great power over all of the Churches except for those few empowered by God and their faithfulness to the Scriptures to escape and evade, Vatican Roma's persecutions of all who would not submit to her Nicolatine spirit of control.

The headquarters of the Nicolatine spirit, seeking control over Churches always seems to have been Rome. The Church in Rome is actually a very stunning contrast. The Church in Rome that Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, had started there in the first century, compared to what the Church in Rome came to be after Constantine, is truly stunning in comparison and contrast.

We know from the scriptures that Paul had disciplined some pastors who ministered by SERVING small congregations in Rome. The DIFFERENCES between what Paul started, and what Vatican Roma soon became, is most remarkable. The early Home Churches, under their pastors, looked to the authority of the Scriptures as received in the gospel accounts of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the writings of the Apostles. All authority was based upon the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament.

These early pastors and Churches had a true and living faith in God's grace through the Gospel. We see the evidence of this in the Scriptures themselves in the letter of Paul to the Romans. We see how the Gospel was faithfully treasured in those early Roman congregations. At the beginning of his letter, the Apostle commends the believers at Rome for their FAITH. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son.

This level of approval is not often seen in the letters of the Apostle Paul. For two hundred fifty years, THE Faith of the Churches of Rome continued to be well known for their lifestyle conformity to the Scriptures, while they lived under extreme persecutions. Perhaps the most famous of the persecutions took place under Emperor Nero in 64 A.D. It would be certainly beyond imagination for those believers in Rome in the first 200-250 years after Christ, to think what the so-called Church of Rome has become. No way could such persecuted, SCRIPTURE living believers, imagine the idea of a Most Holy Roman Pontiff. They would all shout, BLASPHEMY, in the face of anyone referring to the Pope, or any man, as The Holy Father. It would be impossible for such SCRIPTURE living believers, to think how the belief in rituals, and priestcraft, could confer the grace of the Holy Spirit. None of the believers who were part of the Church that was in Rome for the first 250 years after Christ, could imagine someone who claimed to be a Christian would venerate saints, or pray the Hail Mary, or pray to the Queen of Heaven, or any saint. They knew what Jeremiah had said in 7:18, and 44:17-28. Every single one of them would be astonished at what a Mother of Harlots the big Church of Rome would become.

The Apostle John was actually given Revelation, by the Lord, to see what the Church in Rome would become, and was equally shocked by what he saw. John wrote: So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

Scripture believers know the pyramid which the Lord Jesus Christ established is up side down, compared to what the Roman Catholic Church formed, since its first Pope, Constantine, established himself as the first Pontifus Maximus. Yes, the Roman Pope's title, Supreme Pontiff, first entered church history by way of Constantine in the fourth century, and means high priest of PAGANISM. Christians located in Rome for the first three centuries could not imagine Vatican Roma's top heavy Nicolaitane hierarchy. How such a system of layperson to priest, from priest to bishop, from bishop to archbishop, from archbishop to cardinal, and cardinal to pope, would have been to them rejected as the abomination which the scriptures teach it to be. The Lord HATES such Nicolaitane hierarchy according to Rev 2:6-15, and in Matt 23:8-11 said – But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call NO man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your SERVANT.

The Roman state sponsored persecution of Christians ended in 313 A.D. It was

at that time that the emperors, Constantine in the West, and Licinius in the East, proclaimed the Edict of Milan. This decree established the policy of religious freedom for both paganism, and Christianity. No real truthful Pope roots go any farther back in history than the first Pope Constantine. The claims of Vatican Roma, or Eastern Orthodox of apostolic succession are 100% FRAUD, and history revision.

Constantine set up four vice-prefects to govern the Roman Empire. Under Constantine's authority the Christian world was to be governed from four great cities, Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and Rome. Over each city there was set a Patriarch, who governed all the elders of his domain, which was later to be called a Diocese. Constantine wanted the Christian Churches to be organized like the government of the Empire.

By what Constantine established, the respect and status of the various Christian elders directly related to the status of their city. Since Rome was the most powerful, and prestigious city in the world at the time, contrary to the scriptures, and in accord with the respecting of persons, and according to the way of the world, the flesh, and the devil, Rome was destined to have the most prominent, and influential bishop. The bishop of Rome, according to the ways of the world, and contrary to the Scriptures, was to Lord it over the rest of the Christian world. Gradually the honor and respect given to the bishop of Rome grew, and these bishops going further and further away from the Scriptures, wanted, and would eventually, require worship from the bishops of other cities. By the end of the fourth century the bishops of Rome began to demand recognition for their exalted position.

By the fifth century the true Gospel was being very effectively subverted by Vatican Roma. In place of the Gospel, and the authority of the Scriptures, and salvation by grace through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, now it was by the rituals and ceremonies, which Vatican Roma had for sale. Ask any catholic. The real difference between a high mass and a low mass, is the higher price that one has to pay for mention in a high mass, in relation to the price that one has to pay for mention in a low mass. Want to purchase some early out time from some departed loved one to shorten their time in purgatory? Vatican Roma has any indulgence for sale, if you will just give them the money.

By the fifth century Vatican Roma had effectively replaced the true worship of God, and the inner conviction of the Holy Spirit. Vatican Roma established the Cadillac version of religion, in terms of formal rites and idolatry. Pagan practices were given Christian terms, to put a false Christian covering on very pagan practices such as the celebration of the winter solstice, and spring equinox. Yes, those celebrations had Christian terms applied to them. Most would be offended by the truth that the celebrations of the birthday of Tamuz at the winter solstice, and the celebration of the fertility goddess at the spring equinox, are being done in their Church. Dose the application of Christian terms to such pagan celebrations make them pleasing to the Lord? One only has to look at what Jeremiah had to say in Chapter 10 to know the answer.

Vatican Roma's gospel is another gospel, very far removed from the true

Gospel and Scripture authority, which was known by the persecuted Churches of Rome, before the first Roman Catholic Pope Constantine. The true Gospel, which was preached and lived BEFORE Constantine founded the Roman State Religion, had produced an internal unity among the believers. However, after the first Pope Constantine, the Roman State Church of paganism with Christian terms, had substituted ritualism for the Gospel. The insistence was now on an external, visible unity for the Church.

The clergy and laity division of the Nicolaitane spirit of religious control, which the Lord HATES, became the base and hallmark of what was to become the Roman Catholic Church. The corruption produced a Nicolaitane hierarchy of the ruling clergy. By the end of the fifth century, a ritual performing priesthood, where the priest presumed to mediate between God and men, had replaced the ministry of a Pastor Servant. The contrary to scripture nature of Vatican Roma is most clearly seen in the light of this Word of God – 1 Tim 2:5 – For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. Thus, Vatican Roma's priestcraft ritual, by the end of the fifth century, had replaced the Preachers of the Gospel who had taught the Scripture.

IT IS HOPED THAT EVERYONE CAN SEE THE GREAT FRAUD AT THE ROOT OF ALL APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION CLAIMS OF BOTH ROME, AND THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH. The Church was no more the fellowship of believers under Christ Jesus, united by the Gospel, the absolute authority of Scripture, true worship, and indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Now, it was all external hypocritical religious showmanship. Now, Vatican Roma controlled, as an institution dominated by a hierarchy of priests and bishops.

Within 100 years after Constantine had stopped the state sponsored persecution of the Christians, Vatican Roma had effectively replaced the true worship of God, and the inner conviction of the Holy Spirit, by the preaching of the Word of God. Vatican Roma made the state sponsored form of Christianity to be outward show and ritualism. Vatican Roma had established a form of paganism cloaked in Christian terms. It was a comfortable religion that could easily accommodate the pagans, complete with formal rites, holidays, and idolatry. Statues of Jupiter or Zeus became statues of St. Peter. The statues of the Queen of Heaven became statues of Mother Mary with baby Jesus. The vast majority of pagans had similar forms and rituals, and the adoption of Christian terms for these things made the religion tolerable for all except a very FEW PEOPLE OF THE BOOK.

About this same time, the city of Rome began to be attacked by the Goths. In 410 Alaric the Goth captured Rome but did not stay to rule. Attila the Hun then conquered Rome in 452. Pope Leo somehow influenced Attila to stop his advance and leave Italy. No one knows for sure if Attila had just had enough war and chose to enjoy the spoils of his conquests. However, everyone knows that pope Leo took credit for saving Rome. Then Leo was able to use the same great persuasive power to get the leader of the Vandals, who also captured Rome after Attila, to stop killing the Romans and leave.

Pope Leo The Great represents a strong testimony to the capabilities of Vatican Roma in intrigue. Almost a millennium later the Jesuit order would be

founded to give a quantum leap to Vatican Roma's already proven capability of intrigue. The significance of Leo's pontificate lies in the fact of his assertion of the universal episcopate of the Roman bishop, which comes out in his letters, and still more in his ninety-six extant orations. This assertion is commonly referred to as the doctrine of Petrine supremacy. Was Pope Leo The Great truly a Christian, and professor of THE Faith, and Doctrine of the Apostles? YES, on the basis of his most famous Tome, letter 28, to Flavian, Leo gave an impecable defense of the Gospel from which modern popes could learn much to forsake their shipwrecking, and subversion of THE Faith.

There was a vacancy for the position of Roman Emperor. A vacuum had been established because the Imperial leadership had left Rome. None of the barbarian leaders that conquered Rome wanted to take the position of ruler of Rome, to reside in Rome. In spite of the profound truth to the contrary, given by the Lord in Luke 16:13, No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Leo seemed to act as if he thought he could do what the Lord said was impossible.

Leo, as the bishop of Rome, saw the opportunity that was presented to him by the situation of Rome being attacked by Attila. God only knows the intrigue that convinced Attila and the other conquerors of Rome not to set up a throne there, or at least put one of their Generals on a throne there.

Augustine had already written some things very pleasing to the popes, that they were intended to rule over the world for Christ. Leo thought he was just the right pope to run the millennial kingdom for Christ. Leo loudly proclaimed his vested and sole right to bind and loose in place of Christ, and finally declared his right to the throne of the exiled Roman emperor, as the position from which the pope should rule the world in place of Christ. From the throne of Rome, Pope Leo claimed to have the seat of Christ's universal kingdom.

Vatican Roma in a very real way is a continuation of the iron legs of the Roman Empire in the visions of the prophet Daniel, and a certain part of the Fourth Beast of which Daniel did speak. By way of Vatican Roma, the beast that was, and is not, YET IS. The Roman Empire did not really end. The Roman Empire simply changed its form. The pope became Caesar's successor.

When Constantine moved his capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Constantinople in 330 A.D. it gave a tremendous increase to the power of the bishop of Rome. The ecclesiastical contest that had been going on for some time between Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and Rome, regarding which was the greatest, was decided by that move of Constantine. The struggle now for ecclesiastical dominance was between Rome and the new Constantinople. The barbarian invasions of the Western Roman Empire were the best thing that ever happened to build up the power of the Roman popes. The pope, and only the pope, according to the pope, could help Rome against the threats of the Alamanni, Franks, Visigoths, Burgundians, Suevi, Anglo-Saxons, Lombards, Heruli, Vandals, and the Ostrogoths.

The Emperor of Rome now lived in Constantinople. It was Clovis, King of the

Franks, who was the first of the barbarian princes to accept the faith proposed by the Church of Vatican Roma. To fulfill a vow that he had made on the battlefield when he defeated the Allemanni, Clovis was baptized in 496 A. D. in the Cathedral of Rheims. The Bishop of Rome gave him the title of the eldest son of the Church.

Then, in the sixth century, the Burgundians of Gaul, the Visigoths of Spain, the Suevi of Portugal, and the Anglo-Saxons of Britain, all also joined themselves to the religion of the Bishop of Rome. These barbaric kings and their peoples accepted easily the pagan religion of Rome, because they got to keep all of their pagan celebrations, with just some new Christianized terms. Rome did NOT now have the very narrow way of the Scriptures, and the Gospel. Rome was their same beloved pagan priestcraft rituals with Christian terminology. Vatican Roma's religion was, in fact, very little different in form and substantially the same as their own beloved pagan worship.

In terms of the power of Vatican Roma, all of these conversions represented a quantum leap in the power of the Bishop of Rome. These nations more easily accepted the religion of Rome, because this city had traditionally been the seat of authority of the Caesars, who had previously ruled them with general prosperity. The Bishops of Rome assumed the position as heir to the Caesars, just as Constantine the Caesar, was the first Supreme Pontiff, meaning high priest of paganism, which is a title the pope maintains to the present day.

Rome had long been the seat of power for the Empire. Now Rome would be the place for the high priest of paganism to exercise his authority. More and more Western nations accepted the position of authority of the Bishop of Rome. Emperor Justinian I (527-565), established the dominance of the Bishop of Rome by bringing his ecclesiastical edicts and regulations under the control of civil law.

Justinian's decree set the legal foundation for ruling power by the Bishops of Rome. Justinian used forced ecclesiastical unity to strengthen his political position. As the head of the Empire's Church, the Bishop of Rome took the title of POPE, to be the one who would be in the power position seat of the Bishop of Rome. As pope, the Bishop of Rome could use the sword of the Empire's armies given to him by the decree of Justinian.

Before the sixth century, Christian Church unity came by the moral persuasion of the Gospel. The conviction of the Holy Spirit through the Scriptures alone brought salvation to such as should be saved. These genuinely saved individuals would be salt and light to their civil societies. However, the application of Christian terms to pagan rituals and celebrations, and departure from Scriptural basis of authority, and adoption of carnal, pagan ethics employed by the Bishops of Rome, could certainly only produce the same old worldly corruption of Lucifer's, antichrist, Nicolaitane, controlling spirit of corruption.

As expected, the Bishop of Rome soon enough wanted to reign like a king with worldly pomp, and worldly power. The very thing that the Lord had warned against was now happening. The very Nicolaitane spirit the Lord said that He HATES was now going to rule. The religion of Vatican Roma quickly became the

exact opposite of the instruction of the Lord in Mat 20:25-28:

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

History has shown the Vatican Roman Popes to PERSONIFY THE OPPOSITE if the clear teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Since the pope spoke as a DRAGON on July 10, 2007, maybe it is time for Roman Catholics and every one else bowing the knee to the pope on Sunday, in pre-trib lala land to DO according to 2 Cor 13:5 and Rev 18: 4: Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

I believe that it is time that it be said with all holy boldness that the SAINTS must prepare for 42 months of war with the antichrist host, and an unprecedented holocaust lead by the antichrist false prophet pope. The pre-trib lala landers are about to receive the shock of their life, realizing the FRAUD of Vatican Roma, and the Abominable lies of Dispensational Theology, originally financed by Illuminati Satanists and subsequently promoted from within by the Jesuits.

If you want convincing documentation on this entire subject of True History Since the time of the apostles, and how wide and firm is the connection of the antichrist with Vatican Roma just click this for the proof:

The Secret of Secret Societies

National or enforced religions have never changed the heart and lives of mankind. People are born destitute of spirit and and true spiritual life, and therefore all must be born again. Sadly, in these last days of great apostasy and strong delusion the majority who once testified of a born again experience are in the most serious need of being born again, AGAIN. Worse yet they do NOT perceive this great need and some would dare to attack the affirmation of the grace of God found and evidenced in repentance that being born again, AGAIN, represents as their only hope.

The FRAUD, history revision, fallacies, intrigue, priestcraft, and Nicolaitane spirit is not what is needed in such a time as this. The huge Roman Empire brought in some political unity, but no light and hope.

However, when the Lord Jesus Christ came, for the FEW who would REALLY RECEIVE HIM, to them gave He the Power to BECOME sons of God. He ONLY, and NO Pope, or priestcraft worker of any sort among men can save and give everlasting life. The death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is the the greatest event the history of the world. The Old Testament Scriptures foretold it, and the Gospel of the New Testament proclaimed it.



Beginning at Jerusalem, the Apostles proclaimed Him as the author of everlasting life. From among a people who were despised by all nations, came these Apostles with the proclamation and demonstration of the mercy and power of God. THE Gospel, the only TRUE Gospel, and doctrine of the Apostles, invited all men to receive new, abundant, eternal LIFE. Greeks and Romans, slaves and slave owners, men and women. From from across the known world, many came to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. REPENTANCE and Faith IN Him gave them new life in Him to the glory of God the Father Almighty in the Name of Jesus. People from all of the known world, as far as India to the East, Africa to the South, and Ireland to the West, received the light of life and freedom from the bondage to Satan with THE Gospel by the conviction of the Holy Sprit through the SCRIPTURES. Yes, the Word of God was preached in the Power of the Holy Ghost.

THE Gospel, very definite article, not another gospel of Vatican Roma was preached in the power of God and not by the force of man. That gave new life, even abundant, and eternal life, and a Blessed Hope. The Gospel proclaimed that salvation comes from Him alone by His grace ONLY by Repentance and Faith in Him as The Lord.

The Gospels of the Lord Jesus Christ and the written letters of the Apostles settled the great questions of doctrine, being BOTH the Doctrine of Messiah and the Doctrine of the Apostles, and the only LEGITIMATE claim to true or real apostolic authority or apostolic succession.

The claim of Vatican Roma to apostolic succession is 100% FRAUD. The fraud is based upon history revision, and wresting of the Scriptures. The same may be said of so-called Orthodox churches, not to mention such Luciferian frauds as Islam, Mormons, and Jehovah's Witnesses. Yes, that also includes Judaism unless such a so-called form of Judaism would proclaim Yeshua Messiah as the I AM who taught Torah to moses, being known and exalted as BOTH Creator and Redeemer.

There was nothing arrogant or high and mighty as the apostles addressed the churches. The unity in the Lord is clearly seen when in the Acts of the Apostles, we see such expressions as – The apostles and elders and brethren send greetings unto the brethren. In the face of great persecution by the middle of the second century true history will show that the authentic Church had the true Gospel of God's grace. The ONLY True Gospel had been preached to the western end of Europe and even to the eastern end of Asia.

The ONLY TRUE Faith, the Faith of Abraham, that God would provide Himself, as THE Lamb of God, MUST be in perfect agreement with the scriptures, of BOTH the Old and New Testaments. Today that God promised PERFECT and only Holy Bible is found today in plain English, in the Authorized, KJV, which I like to call the King Jesus Version Holy Bible. The Scriptures and ONLY the Scriptures is the means by which the believer enters into the salvation purchased by the sacrifice of THE Messiah as the Lamb of God. The Lord God is almighty and He has provided the good news of THE Gospel, for all who are dead in trespasses and sins. This we do KNOW – that the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten

Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Some, like Roman Catholics, believe on their church, their pope, their leader, their sacraments, and their rituals. The Roman Catholic Church is the Cadillac of religion when it comes to having such things for sale. THEY WILL PERISH IN THE BOSSOM OF THE MOTHER OF ALL HARLOT RELIGIONS.

By nature we are all born sinners and children of wrath. We are all born rebels at enmity against God and in rebellion against His Word. We are all born rebels at enmity against the Lord God and His Word. The perfect and just law of God has condemned us all. The Lord God is not responsible to rescue any of us from His just wrath which every one of us deserves. Despite our sin nature and personal sin, the Lord God has given the PERFECT sacrifice of His Only Begotten Son for all TRULY born again BELIEVERS, by His Spirit of Truth and Holiness, True believers IN His WORD. God alone is Holy. All sin is an offense to the Holiness of God. Only God can give the terms by which the offense to His Holiness can be satisfied. ALL simply MUST turn to God in REPENTANCE and Faith IN The Lord Jesus Christ, and Him alone, for the salvation that ONLY His sacrifice, and His Faith can give by His Word, by the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Salvation MUST be based ONLY on Christ's death and resurrection. One can NOT find any hope of salvation by faith in a church, or sacraments of a church, or any ritual of any church. Faith must be of, by, and through Him only, with NO other mediator allowed in His place. For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Those trusting in the Roman Catholic Church, the religion of Islam, the Mormon Church, Hinduism, Buddhism, or any other church or religion need to be told in truth and in love that they are perishing. We are his witnesses with the TRUE Gospel in the full context of the KJV Holy Bible rightly divided, that may make the true claim without fraud, to true apostolic succession. They were sent out to make disciples, disciplined ones IN the Word of God. We therefore are of that succession to be disciples and make disciples IN the Word of God. Those trusting in any church are really just like the lost Pharisees who had opportunity to hear directly from the Lord and rejected the One and ONLY Messiah. The Jesus problem was expressed most explicitly in John 8:24, – I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I AM, ye shall die in your sins. Those who hold faith in a church, an organization, sacraments, rituals, or traditions, are DENYING THE PERSON OF THE LORD.

Eph 2:8-10 and Titus 3:5-7 says it so simple direct and clear – For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but

according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

If you are trusting in the Roman Catholic Church, the Mormon Church, the Watchtower, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, or any religion, or church, or organization and its rituals, you are LOST and without the Blessed Hope of eternal life.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Pray Psalm 83 every day. Only be very strong and of good courage. Stay IN the Word.

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## Catholic Vs. Protestant Jesus



This is a transcription of a podcast by Christian J. Pinto given on Aug. 1, 2022, on [Noise of Thunder Radio](#). Chris gives many interesting insights, things that I believe deepen our understanding of the spiritual warfare we are all experiencing.

In this transcription, I added titles to identify the contents of the subsection. The titles also automatically generate a menu on the page. I hope you find them useful.

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Okay, praise the Lord you guys and welcome. I'm Chris Pinto. This is noise of thunder radio today in the show.

We are going to talk about the Catholic Jesus. The Catholic Jesus is the Catholic Jesus, the same Jesus of Protestantism. Is the Catholic Jesus the same Jesus of Protestantism? Well, we're going to allow a very traditional Catholic ministry, a very traditional Catholic organization called Church Militant, one that I've mentioned on this program a number of times. I've made reference to articles that they have. They are very traditional Catholics. They believe that the liberalism and really leftism that's going on, which I'm not sure if they understand is really Jesuitism. I'm not sure that they have that understanding of history. I'm not sure that they understand that the Jesuits are behind social justice and that they're the co-authors of socialism and communism and that the Vatican is really the

well-spring of communism.

We're going to talk about that on the program as well. But right now I want to focus on that version of Jesus, the Lord Jesus Christ that is presented by the Roman Catholic Church. Now when we talk about the Catholic Jesus, as opposed to the Protestant Jesus, the Protestant Jesus, if we're talking historic Protestantism is Jesus according to the Bible. As one historian put it, *Protestantism is the Bible*, the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible. So if you're going to talk about the Protestant faith historically, it must be based on the Bible. Otherwise, it's not really Protestantism. It might be some offshoot of Protestantism where people come up with different ideas about things. That's something else entirely.

## **Historic Protestantism**

Historic Protestantism, however imperfectly a particular church may pursue it or achieve it or accomplish it, the aim is to obey every word of God according to scripture. To live as Jesus said, man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. That is historic Protestantism. Now we all know that that changed in the late 19th century into the 20th century. You have so-called Protestant groups that are not really Protestant at all because they're pursuing ideas that would be utterly rejected by the Reformers. The Reformers would have nothing to do with them.

Probably the one that I'm seeing more and more is this partitioning of the gospel into two categories that insist that there are two gospels, one gospel for the Jews and one gospel for the Gentiles. And that, of course, we believe is complete heresy. It's a violation of Galatians chapter 1. The Apostle Paul says, if any man or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel, let him be accursed. So we reject the idea that there are somehow or other two gospels that are contained in the New Testament or really anywhere in the Bible. Jesus is one Lord. He is the way, the truth, the life. No man comes under the Father, but by him. Praise the Lord.

But let's talk about this issue of another Jesus and why this is so important. We have in the New Testament in 2 Corinthians chapter 11, 2 Corinthians chapter 11, the Apostle Paul is writing to the church at Corinth. And he says in verse 2,

*For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy, for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your mind should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. Or if you receive another spirit which you have not received, or another gospel which you have not accepted, you might well bear with him.*

## **Another Jesus? Two Gospels?**

So notice the Apostle Paul is confronting this idea of another Jesus. And that's actually his terminology, *another* Jesus. So obviously, when people come and they talk to you about Jesus, we have to be discerning at that point

whether or not they're really describing the Jesus of the Bible, or if they're preaching another Jesus.

And in verse 3, Paul is warning the church, he's saying, I fear lest by any means as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, that it'll be through subtle deception and lies obviously, that will contradict the clearly stated words of God. Remember what God said to Adam concerning the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, that in the day that you eat thereof, you will surely die? And what does the serpent do? He shows up and he says, you will not surely die, you shall not surely die. But your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. So the serpent openly contradicts the clearly stated word of God, the clearly stated commandment of God. So that is the immediate context of what we're looking at.

That's one of the reasons why I think those who are preaching the two gospel message, they're claiming that there's one gospel for the Jews, one gospel for the Gentiles. That's obviously wrong, it's obviously condemned by the clear statements that we have throughout the New Testament.

And just as when the serpent beguiled Eve, if Eve had obeyed what God had commanded Adam, "In the day that you eat thereof, you will surely die." Don't eat of that fruit. Very simple, very straightforward. Then Eve would not have been beguiled or bewitched and she would not have sinned then against God.

And so it is now, you have a clear scripture, if any man or an angel preach any other gospel, let him be accursed. And yet now we have people who are doing exactly that, they're contradicting the clear warnings that we have in scripture.

### **Any other gospel is quite often applied to Rome**

Yet if we were to go and read commentaries prior to the 20th century, the reference to if any man preach any other gospel is quite often applied to Rome. Because the context is you had the circumcision teachers who were saying that except you get circumcised and keep the law you cannot be saved, *they're adding something to the gospel of grace*. And you have earlier commentators who argue that really Rome, when you look at Rome and the sacramental salvation, things like you've got to be in submission to the Pope and you've got to be in submission to the Church of Rome in particular, or you cannot be saved. They have all of these different conditions for salvation that have been added over the centuries. And this is really what brings us to the issue of the Protestant Jesus versus the Roman Catholic Jesus, the papal version of Christ.

So let's define our terminology here. The Protestant Jesus is Jesus based on the Bible, and it can only be that, it cannot be Jesus based on something else, because historic Protestantism embraces only the Bible, which even Catholics who are aware of what historic Protestantism is acknowledge.

And we're going to hear that from a statement made by Michael Voris (who aggressively promotes traditional Catholicism) of Church militant, which I think is very important.

If we were going to talk about the Mormon Jesus, for example, if you're going to talk about the Mormon Jesus, you cannot define the Mormon Jesus without the Book of Mormon. The Mormon Jesus is defined by the Book of Mormon. If you're going to talk about the Islamic Jesus, because yes, in Islam, they also claim to believe in Jesus. But to understand the Islamic Jesus, you have to read the Quran, you have to read the Hadiths, you have to read their writings.

## **Defining the Catholic Jesus**

So how would we define the Catholic Jesus? How would we define the Catholic Jesus? You have to read writings outside of the Bible. Because what is it that makes the Catholic Jesus Catholic? I would propose that you have at least three documents that you have to take into consideration in order to understand the Catholic Jesus.

The Catholic Jesus is defined by the Council of Trent, by Vatican Council I, and by Vatican Council II. Those three documents at the very least, now there may be other documents as well. In fact, Rome has a whole series of documents and councils and things like that. But the three major documents would be the Council of Trent, Vatican Council I, and then of course they're most up-to-date, extensive declaration, which is Vatican Council II. That is where you define the Catholic Jesus.

And as I've said before, if you believe official Roman Catholic doctrine, if you actually believe the doctrines of Rome as they are set down on paper, you cannot be saved. It is simply not possible because you have to reject the true gospel as it is given in the New Testament. Now what do we mean by that? Let's look at the Council of Trent just very quickly.

The Council of Trent is, I think, the clearest example. You have Canon 9, which says,

“If any one saith, that by faith alone the impious is justified; in such wise as to mean, that nothing else is required to co-operate in order to the obtaining the grace of Justification and that it is not in any way necessary, that he be prepared and disposed by the movement of his own will; let him be anathema.”

<https://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent/ct06.html>

Let him be accursed. That's Canon 9 from the Council of Trent. If anyone says that by faith alone, the impious is justified. Okay, and then nothing else is required in order to obtain the grace of justification. Nothing else required. Let him be anathema. That's one.

Canon 12 says,

“If any one shall say that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in the divine mercy pardoning sins for Christ's sake, or that it is that confidence alone by which we are justified...let him

be accursed.”

So the Council of Trent pronounces a curse upon you if you believe that you're saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ apart from works. That is the whole problem. I mean, that right there, that just cuts right through everything and gets to the fundamental problem with Rome and Romanism.

### **Michael Voris and his Church Militant organization**

Now, something that I'm typically careful to say whenever these discussions happen is that it's important to remember that the average Catholic, especially here in America, is not aware of the official doctrines of Rome. They're not aware of the details of the Council of Trent. However, when we talk about a group like Church Militant and Michael Voris, you're not talking about ignorant Catholics. You're talking about Catholics who know full well what the official doctrines of Rome are. And so what happened was I was sent an email by one of our listeners that contained a video link to a video that was made and published by Michael Voris of Church Militant, where he is the one who asks the question, do Catholics and Protestants worship the same Jesus? And he very clearly says, no, we do not worship the same Jesus. I'd never seen this before. I knew that Church Militant was hostile to the Reformation and to people like Martin Luther, etc. But I did not realize that they went this far with it. And I think it's very important that anybody who's stumbling upon the Church Militant website understands what they really believe, which is very important, brothers and sisters, because the ecumenical movement is telling the Protestants, the evangelicals, that really they need to join hands with Rome. They need to see the Pope as a Christian. They need to see Catholics as Christians and this kind of thing. And it is very, very deceptive, very deceptive.

So again, that's why I say you might have a Catholic friend who seems to believe about Jesus what you believe. That could be the case. But when we say the Catholic Jesus, what it comes down to are those documents that are unique to Rome, wherein they define the faith that they believe in, that's the only way you can define the Catholic Jesus.

But here we're going to play some of the audio from Michael Voris on the Church Militant website. And this particular message is called the Vortex "Prodi Jesus." Now Prodi, the word Prodi, just so you know, is sort of a slang or really seems to be kind of an insult for Protestant. So instead of Protestant, they're saying Prodi, the Prodi Jesus. So here is what Michael Voris has to say about the Protestant Jesus versus the Catholic version of Jesus.

(Audio of Michael Voris mocking Protestantism and the biblical Jesus while claiming the Catholic Jesus is superior.)

All right, I have to jump in here very quickly because I can't let that go unanswered, the idea that it's the Protestant form of Jesus who says, "Hey, do whatever you want." Historically, that's not the case at all. That is

completely opposite to the Reformed and the Puritan movement. The Puritan movement is the reason why we have moral standards in both church and state that are upheld and defended. Wherever you have Rome and her priesthood in charge, you will have gross immorality normalized and that is throughout history. Nobody pushes LGBT like the Vatican and her agents in America and throughout the world. That's provable beyond any doubt.

But let's listen to the rest of what Michael Voris has to say.

(Voris talks about the worship of Jesus' mother and prayers to Catholic saints.)

Now the reference to the saints is, I believe in the Catholic context, a reference to praying to the saints, patron saints and exalting patron saints over this issue and that issue, etc. Which is really a form of idolatry as we see it as Protestant evangelicals. Certainly when Michael Voris says *prodi* Jesus has no regard for his mother, if you go and read everything that Church Militant says about the Virgin Mary, they engage in idolatry. What can only be called outright idolatry where the Virgin Mary is concerned. There's no question about that. But go to their website, look up what Voris says on the Virgin Mary. It's very, very clear. It's nothing that they can defend as venerating the mother of Jesus. They can't claim that because they're looking to Mary in the same way that Christians should be looking to God. They're putting their faith in their trust in Mary to empower them and help them and all this other kind of stuff. Whereas the scripture never tells us anything like that. All of our trust and reliance is to be upon the Lord, upon God Himself and upon the Lord Jesus Christ, not upon Mary or any of these patron saints, so called.

Michael Voris of the Catholic media organization called Church Militant is very, very conservative traditional Catholic. They resist liberalism and leftism in the Catholic church today. However, they also are very, very hostile toward historic Protestantism and make it very clear that they completely denounce the Protestant Reformation.

## **Catholic means of salvation vs. the Bible**

Michael Voris says the Protestant version of Jesus is basically denying people the means of "salvation." And this is what it comes down to, brothers and sisters, the understanding of salvation. Rome teaches a sacramental form of salvation, works-oriented salvation. And they believe that you have to take the Eucharist, the Eucharist, meaning the wafer, which has been called for several hundred years, the true God of Rome, the God of Rome is the wafer. When the Catholic priest holds up the wafer, the Eucharist, the host and says, *hoc est corpus meum*, (Latin for this is my body) the Protestant corruption of which is Hocus Pocus, supposedly the Eucharist then becomes the literal physical body, blood, bones and sinew of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what they believe. That's the doctrine of trans-substantiation.

It's important to understand that the doctrine of trans-substantiation is said to have begun with Pope Innocent III, the same pope who initiated the great Inquisition. And through the dark age period, what happened was you'd



have Catholic priests that would hold up the wafer and they expected people to come and bow down and worship the wafer or the Eucharist as God, as Christ, manifest in the flesh, in the hands of a Roman priest. And if you did not come and bow down, there are multiple cases, many, many cases of people who were taken and punished and put to death for refusing to bow before this Eucharist, the Eucharistic Adoration.

Now, if you want to read a book on this to really understand the extreme nature of it and the absurdity of it, look for the book by 19th century Catholic priest who eventually became a Protestant, Charles Chiniquy, who was the personal friend of Abraham Lincoln. He wrote a book called [The God of Rome, eaten by a rat](#). And he talks about ministering at a church in Quebec in Canada, and that there was an older priest there who was blind, and that one day the priest was hunting about on the altar in a Catholic church, looking for the wafer, and the wafer had disappeared. And the priest is saying to him, he tells the story, let me see if I can get the dialogue.

(Please read the entire account, [The God of Rome, eaten by a rat](#).)

Chiniquy is revealing to us that this old Catholic priest in Canada openly referred to the wafer, the Eucharist, as God. They believed the wafer was and is God. That is the God of Rome. And if you don't believe on this wafer God, you cannot be saved according to Michael Voris.

The God of Roman Catholicism, the Jesus of Roman Catholicism, the Catholic Jesus is another Jesus, if in fact, Catholics believe in that version of Jesus that is contained in the official writings and doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. If that's the Jesus you believe in, you believe in another Jesus and your Christ is really an anti-Christ, another Christ. It is not the Christ of the Bible.

Now to read another quote from the book, here's a quote. It says,

If there is a thing which is as evident as two and two make four, it is that Romanism is the old idolatry of Babylon, Egypt and Rome under a Christian mask. But this new form of idolatry is so boldly denied by some of the great dignitaries of Rome and so skillfully concealed by others under the spotless robe of Jesus that not only the two unsuspecting nominal Protestants, but even the very elect are in danger of being entrapped and deceived.

Okay, that's just one of the quotes from the book. And so you have people who are saying, well, let's just focus on Jesus and we all believe in Jesus, right? And so we just focus on Jesus and we'll forget about everything else. But here we're learning from a very traditional Catholic organization, Church Militant, that the Jesus of Roman Catholicism is not the Jesus of Protestantism, meaning it's not the Jesus of the Bible. It can't be.

Now we know that the liberal Jesus, the LGBT Jesus is obviously not the Jesus of the Bible. That's the other Jesus that's also being preached by Rome and by the Jesuits in particular. They are promoting the rainbow Jesus and we say

rainbow in the sense of LGBT activism. It is a different Jesus. So whether it's the traditional Catholic Jesus that Church militant is describing based on historic Catholicism, or it is the LGBT Jesus that is now being promoted by the Jesuit order and to some extent by Pope Francis, whatever the case may be, it is another Jesus entirely. And Catholics themselves admit it. That's what we have to recognize. They admit that they bow to a different Christ.

Now there was a time when Protestants understood this. There was a time when they understood it and they believed it was a critical understanding because if you allow Catholics to be in charge in matters of government, what happens is your government is essentially going to be controlled by the Vatican because the Catholic version of Christianity, so-called Christianity, is to do whatever the pope tells you to do. That's Roman Catholicism. And so if Catholics are in charge, that means the pope is in charge. That means the Jesuits are in charge. The Holy See in Rome is in charge of your country. That's the problem.

## **The No Religious Test Clause**

And if you examine early American laws where the states are concerned, it was required that you had to be a Protestant in order to hold political office anywhere in early America.

This is from the <https://constitutioncenter.org/>. And an article they have called [The No Religious Test Clause](#). This is one of the most misunderstood things happening politically in our country, one of the most misunderstood parts of the Constitution. And I could probably talk about this for an hour, but we're not going to have time, but where it says the No Religious Test Clause, no religious test shall be required, etc.

The thing that we've gotten away from is that the whole concept of a religious test was the swearing of an oath. It was not seen as the same thing as a religious requirement. Religious requirements are entirely constitutional. You just can't have somebody swear an oath concerning it.

So let me read part of this article. It says,

In England, religious tests were used to "establish" the Church of England as an official national church. The Test Acts, in force from the 1660s until the 1820s, required all government officials to take an oath disclaiming the Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation and affirming the Church of England's teachings about receiving the sacrament. These laws effectively excluded Catholics and members of dissenting Protestant sects from exercising political power. Religious tests were needed, William Blackstone explained, to protect the established church and the government "against perils from non-conformists of all denominations, infidels, turks, jews, heretics, papists, and sectaries."

That's them quoting William Blackstone. Then it goes on in the same article. It says,

At the time the United States Constitution was adopted, religious qualifications for holding office also were pervasive throughout the states. Delaware's constitution, for example, required government officials to "profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost." North Carolina barred anyone "who shall deny the being of God or the truth of the Protestant religion" from serving in the government. Unlike the rule in England, however, American religious tests did not limit office-holding to members of a particular established church. Every state allowed Protestants of all varieties to serve in government. Still, religious tests were designed to exclude certain people—often Catholics or non-Christians—from holding office based on their faith.

Now bear this in mind, brothers and sisters, that principle, you see the no religious test shall be required, had to do with not requiring people to swear an oath and they limited religious liberty to Protestant belief systems. Why? Because Catholics were devoted to a foreign power, a foreign leader. And atheists and Turks, etc. did not acknowledge the Bible as the Word of God. And the Bible is what is intended in the Constitution rather in the Declaration of Independence, where it mentions the laws of nature and of nature's God. That's a very direct reference to the Bible. Furthermore, the subscription clause of the Constitution, which says in the year of our Lord, is a direct reference to the Lord Jesus Christ.

So Catholics believing transubstantiation, they believe the Eucharist is Christ. And that's a problem when you've got Catholics involved in government, because they bend and twist everything towards Rome, typically. Maybe not every single Catholic, not every single one, but collectively, ultimately they're going to bend things in the direction of the Pope. And all of the teachings of Rome that basically say the Pope has the authority to control all the countries, especially professing Christian countries, the Pope has the authority to control all of them.

Now this used to be well known, and was the reason why there were laws against having Catholics in position to political power. And that continued all the way until when, until 1961. And this article at [ConstitutionCenter.org](http://ConstitutionCenter.org) acknowledges that.

It says;

But in *Torcaso v. Watkins* (1961), the Supreme Court unanimously held that religious tests for state office-holding violate the religion clauses of the First Amendment.

And what they did really is they reinterpreted Article 6 so that now a

religious test was equal to having a requirement. You see, before, the religious test was only the swearing of an oath. It just like getting you to testify is one thing. Getting you to testify under oath is a different level of accountability. If you say something when you're being questioned kind of unofficially and you make certain statements, that's one thing. If you're under oath and you go into a court of law, you go before the FBI or you go before the US Congress and you testify under oath and you lie and you give out false information, you're committing a crime. You can be arrested and prosecuting go to jail. It's a different level of accountability. And that's what they were trying to remove from articles of religion. They wanted to remove that the oath and the punishment of somehow or other being in violation of a religious oath.

That's what Article 6 originally represented. There's even a whole article on this on the Harvard University website for those who want to investigate it further. I learned it from reading this article on the Harvard website.

Because our forefathers understood the political influence of the Vatican over all the countries in Europe, how that had created so many of the wars and so many of the problems even wrote about it.

Read what Sam Adams says in his [Rights of the Colonists 1772](#). He talks about the manipulations of Rome in a country, and that they established secret groups in a country, and they develop a hidden order within the established order.

And now, of course, people are trying to figure out why is communism taking over our country? Why is that happening? We're going to be talking about this in this new film on the Jesuits on American Jesuits. We're going to go over in part the history of the Jesuits and the development of communism in the 19th century.

## **The doctrine of Transubstantiation is political**

That the word communism is traced to the word communion. Communion. That's not typically what we're told, but it is traced to the word communion. And in the communion, the Catholic communion, when the priest holds up the wafer and he says the words, *hoc est corpus*, and the wafer now becomes God, becomes Christ in the flesh, so much so that you have to go and bow down and worship this wafer. And if you don't, then you're in rebellion to God. Well, who's holding the wafer? The Catholic priest. And only an ordained Roman Catholic priest has the power and the authority to call down Christ from heaven. So if a Roman Catholic priest has the power to call down God himself from heaven, if God is going to obey the priesthood of Rome, well, then how much more should everybody else obey the priesthood of Rome?

You see where this is headed. This is where transubstantiation was a very politicized issue. It wasn't just about somebody's theology. It became very political and it became about the priesthood of Rome controlling all areas of society. And that's what transubstantiation empowered the priesthood of Rome to do.

## Catholic Communion linked to Communism!

And so what they did is they took that concept of communion and they turned into communism. So now instead of the wafer, instead of all power being channeled into the wafer as God, now all power is channeled into the state. And the state effectively becomes God. That, I believe, is what the Jesuits engineered in the 19th century with Karl Marx as one of their co-conspirators, if you will.

This is from a work by J.A. Wiley called [The Seventh Vile or The Past and Present of Papal Europe](#). And this was published by J.A. Wiley in 1868. 1868. Mark the date. 1868. Before communism ever really took over any country anywhere, but this is before the communists take over of China or Russia or any other part of the world. You had Wiley warning people that communism emanates from Rome. All right, so here is the quote. I'm going to read at least part of it. He says:

“Despotism had long withheld from society it's rights. Communism has now come affirming that society has no rights.

And then he goes on to say,

“If ever Heaven in his wrath sent an incarnation of malignity from the place of all evil to chastise the guilty race of man, it is communism. But the hell from which it has come is Rome. Communism has drawn its birth from the fetid womb of Popery, whose superstition has passed into atheism.”

Wow, isn't that powerful? Wiley goes on. Of course, he saw he saw prophetic fulfillment happening with the development of communism. So he goes on, I'll skip down a bit. He said,

“Should the communists prevail? There remains on earth no further power of staying the revolution. And it must roll on avalanche like to the awful born. Providence may have assigned it, crushing and bearing in its progress, thrones, altars, laws, rights, the fences of order and the bulwarks of despotism, the happiness of families and the prosperity of kingdoms. But above the crash of thrones and the agonies of expiring nations, we may hear the voice of the angel of the waters saying, Thou art righteous, O Lord, because Thou has judged thus, for they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou has given them blood to drink, for they are worthy.

So Wiley saw communism as a righteous judgment from God, God's judgment upon man and his sin and rebellion against God in the gospel of Christ. He goes on, he says,

“Had the Reformation succeeded, the world would have been spared all these dreadful calamities. The Reformation was the Elijah before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. It was the voice crying in the papal wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord. It addressed the apostate churches of Europe, as John did, the Jewish church. The axe is laid unto the root of the trees, therefore every tree which bringeth not forth fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire.

Now I think what Wiley is communicating in his teaching here is his belief that events are unfolding, that the same pattern of warnings and followed by judgment that we have seen in the past, as recorded in the scripture, that those same patterns of warning and judgment we find throughout history. And Wiley saw that beginning to come to pass in his day in the 19th century. I don't think J.A. Wiley could have foreseen how devastating communism would be. But maybe I'm wrong. Maybe he did, because you know the wording, the words that he's choosing and the description, talking about destroying everything in its path, that is very much the impact that communism has had in many parts of the world. It has had a very destructive ruinous, calamitous, bloody impact on mankind.

And now what we're watching here in the United States of America, now that agents of Rome have captured the government of the United States of America, we are sitting on the brink of a full-blown communist revolution and takeover of our country. In fact, some people are already arguing that the United States government is operating as a communist government. There are people who are saying that we're already there, and they're pointing to things like what's going on with the January 6 trials. People just rounded up, and it's obviously a show trial where the due process is not really being followed. The rule of law is not really being obeyed. The rule of law, and this is the great danger. It's what all of our ancestors warned us about.

Once we the people allow those who are in charge of government to remove the laws of God, you allow God's law to be taken out of the way, you have to ask yourself the question, what are they going to replace it with? And typically what happens is they replace it with arbitrary decision-making. In other words, whoever's in charge just says, okay, here's what we're going to do. Do this, do that, whatever. And the rule of law is cast aside. And that's what we're seeing happen. The rule of law is cast aside.

Now we have people in government making these arbitrary decisions about gender confusion. I mean, there's a video clip of Kamala Harris sitting down and talking about her pronouns, and she identifies as a female, and her pronouns are this and that. And all this other, there's been no formal decision made by our Congress. The American people haven't voted for people to get involved in Congress and start passing laws to support these things. No, they're just arbitrarily making them up and imposing them on our schools, colleges, universities, and on the government.

What they're doing, of course, by denying the authority of our Creator and the boundaries given to us by God Himself is engaging in a form of sedition

and ultimately treason. Because the very foundation of our law begins with the authority of God with the laws of nature and of nature's God and the authority of God as our Creator. And that's what they're denying fundamentally. But nevertheless, these things have happened before throughout history.

Brothers and sisters, I mean, we're told, for example, in the Old Testament where it says in Psalm 119, verse 126, it says, It's time for the Lord to work for they have made void thy law. God's law has been made void because of how these corruptors and usurpers are handling the rule of law. They've cast aside the whole idea that government is supposed to operate as the minister of God. They've cast aside what King David says in the Old Testament. The word of the Lord came unto me saying, He that ruleth over men must be just reigning in the fear of God. That's what they have put aside.

### **Our only hope as a nation**

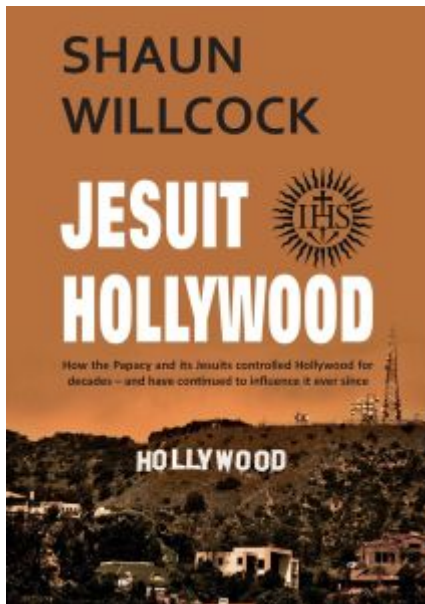
And we believe, as we've said before, if there's any hope for America for us as a nation, it is to repent of the ungodliness that's being normalized before our very eyes, to repent of that and turn this country back toward God and to restore the authority of God and His Word in the Bible, which, yes, I believe we have the right to do. Why? Because that's what our country was founded on. That's the whole point of my film, the true Christian history of America. There is a true Christian history.

Yes, there are tares among the wheat, but the wheat don't stand down because of the tares. In other words, God's authority is not overthrown because there's tares in the wheat field. So there's nothing in the Scripture that says any such thing. In fact, God's people are called to stand up and to confront the wicked and ultimately to overcome them by faith, and by the power of God above all, praise the Lord.

Listen to the entire talk!

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[\*\*Jesuit Hollywood\*\*](#)



The influence of the Jesuits over Hollywood during its so-called “Golden Age”. Evidence of the way in which the Roman Catholic institution pursues its never-ending objective of conquering the world, in particular what could be called the “Protestant world”, by seeking to harness and make use of the most powerful entertainment medium the world has ever known: the movie industry.

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## [Antichrist Powers on the Rise](#)

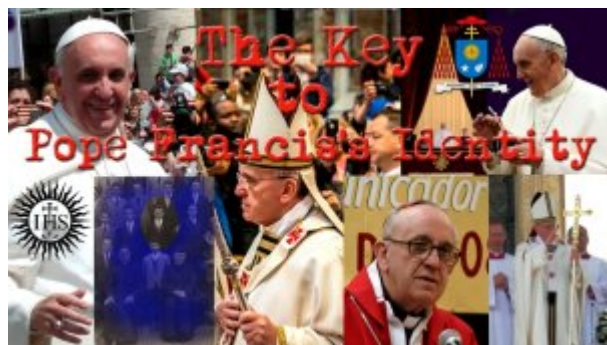


The European Union is not even trying to represent Christianity. They are trying to overthrow Christianity. They hate Christianity. That’s why they’re promoting sodomy and Sharia law and trying to advance the Muslims and fill up all the countries with as many Muslim migrants as they possibly can to sabotage Christian civilization. So what had been for centuries, the Christian standard is going to be done away with and replaced by something else, some kind of socialist, Sharia form of government.

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## [The Key to Pope Francis's Identity](#)



All about Pope Francis and who he really is.

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## [The Cunning Genius Of The Vatican Papal System – Part I](#)



The papal system is the most powerful, evil, and longest lasting organization that ever existed on earth!

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## [Have You Been Duped by](#)

# Dispensationalism?



You may not have heard of the theological term, “Dispensationalism,” or even if you have, you may not know how to define it. But even so, if you are a Bible believer and a follower of Jesus Christ, the chances are high that your views of the Endtime have been tainted by Dispensational doctrines.

## **What is Dispensationalism?**

Dispensationalism is a method of Bible interpretation that was devised by John Nelson Darby (1800-1882), and later formulated by Cyrus I. Scofield (1843-1921), and is also known as Pre-millennial Dispensationalism. Although Darby was not the first person to suggest such a theory, he was, however, the first to develop it as a system of Bible interpretation and is, therefore, regarded as the Father of Dispensationalism.

Dispensationalism was promoted through the publication of the Scofield Reference Bible, which was published in 1909. Scofield’s Bible contributed to the spread of Dispensationalism because it included study notes written from a distinctively dispensationalist perspective.

The founding of Dallas Theological Seminary in 1924 by Lewis Sperry Chafer provided an academic institution for the training of pastors and missionaries in the dispensationalist tradition. The influence of the prestigious Dallas Theological Seminary together with the Scofield Reference Bible is the reason why American evangelicals were corrupted with the false doctrines of Dispensationalism!

The origin of Dispensational theory can be traced to **three Jesuit priests**.

(1) Francisco **Ribera** (1537-1591). He’s the guy that cooked up the doctrine of Futurism, namely that there is a gap of unknown time between the 69th and 70th Week of Daniel, and the 70th Week of Daniel is the final 7 years of the Endtime when the Antichrist makes a covenant or treaty with Israel, rebuilds their temple, breaks the covenant halfway into the 7 years, and persecutes everybody who doesn’t obey and follow him.

(2) Cardinal Robert **Bellarmino** (1542-1621) one of the best-known Jesuit apologists, who promoted similar theories to Ribera in his published work between 1581 and 1593 entitled *Polemic Lectures Concerning the Disputed Points of the Christian Belief Against the Heretics of This Time*. The

“heretics” are Protestants, Baptists, and all Bible believers and followers of Jesus Christ who are not members of the Roman Catholic Church! Bellarmine was arguing against all basic Bible doctrines such as salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.

(3) Manuel **Lacunza** (1731–1801). The writings of Ribera and Bellarmine, which contain the precedence upon which the theory of Dispensationalism is founded, were originally written to counteract the Protestant reformers’ interpretation of the Book of the Revelation which, according to the reformers, **exposed the Pope as Antichrist and the Roman Catholic Church as the whore of Babylon.**

### **What are the doctrines of Dispensationalism?**

- A distinction between the Church and Israel.
- A distinction between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God.
- Support for the State of Israel.
- The world will be led by a one-world government and a one-world leader called “the Antichrist” who will promote a one-world religion.
- The Antichrist **will probably be a Jew.**
- The Antichrist makes a 7-year peace pact with the Jews which allows them to rebuild the Temple of Solomon.
- The Church will disappear in the “secret rapture” where all Christian believers vanish from the planet and that this rapture is “imminent.”
- The Rapture is then followed by a 7-year period called the “Great Tribulation.” A variation of this is the Great Tribulation will begin in the middle of the 7-year period.

All so called “Christian-Zionists” are Dispensationalists. Famous Dispensationalists include Billy Graham, Franklin Graham, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, James Dobson, John Hagee, and Paula White. Just think what an influence these people have had on Christianity in America! Is it a good influence based on pure Bible doctrine? John Hagee tells us:

“As Christians, we are commanded by God to support Israel. We believe in the promise of Genesis 12:3 regarding the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. We believe Christians should bless and comfort Israel and the Jewish people. Believers have a Bible mandate to combat anti-Semitism and to speak out in defense of Israel and the chosen people.” – John Hagee

Hagee’s statement is based on Dispensationalism. The Bible tells me:

*2 John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and **abideth not in the doctrine of Christ**, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*

*10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:*

*11 For **he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.***

The words, "God speed" in the King James Bible is a synonym for blessing someone. The Word of God tells us not to bless those who do not abide in the doctrine of Christ. If we do, we are partakers of their evil deeds. Does the modern state of Israel abide in the doctrine of Christ? Absolutely not. And yet, John Hagee is telling us to bless the ones who do not abide in the doctrine of Christ. Not only do they not abide in the doctrine of Christ, they curse Jesus Christ and reject Him!

Ask yourself, is God blessing America today? The liberals, atheists, and leftists are blaming America's extreme weather, the current heat wave, destruction of houses by tornados, fires, and floods on "Climate Change." I believe it's much more to do with God's judgments on America for her sins. One of those sins is America's support for Israel due to dispensational theology.

Dispensationalists accuse Christians who do not support the modern state of Israel of holding the doctrine of "Replacement Theology." This is a misnomer. The Church has not replaced Israel, [the Church is the continuation of Israel!](#)

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## [What is Truth? How the Bible Defines It](#)



Pilate asked Jesus in John 18:38, "What is truth?" This article is to determine what the Bible has to say about truth.

### **All Truth Comes from God**

- Genesis 24:27 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth:
- Genesis 32:10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant;
- Exodus 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,
- Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

- 2 Samuel 2:6 And now the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you:

## **God's Word, the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, is Truth**

- Psalms 119:43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments.
- Psalms 119:142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.
- Psalms 119:151 Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.
- John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
- John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
- Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation:
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.
- 2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

## **Jesus is Truth**

- John 5:33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.(Jesus)
- John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

## **Lack of Truth leads to Deception**

- Jeremiah 9:5 And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.
- 1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

## **The Gospel is the Truth**

- Galatians 2:5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.
- Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
- Colossians 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

## **If we walk in truth we will also have mercy**

- Genesis 24:27 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren.

- 2 Samuel 15:20 Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth be with thee.
- Psalms 25:10 All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.
- Psalms 57:3 He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.
- Psalms 57:10 For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds.
- Psalms 61:7 He shall abide before God for ever: O prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him.
- Psalms 85:10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- Psalms 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.
- Psalms 89:14 Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.
- Psalms 98:3 He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- Psalms 108:4 For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.
- Proverbs 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:
- Proverbs 14:22 Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good.
- Proverbs 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.
- Proverbs 20:28 Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.
- Micah 7:20 Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

### **Truth is connected to God's Light and lack of truth connected to darkness.**

- Psalms 43:3 O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.
- John 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.
- 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

### **The absence of truth leads to iniquity**

- Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.
- Proverbs 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.
- Isaiah 59:4 None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

- Jeremiah 9:5 And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.
- Malachi 2:6 The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity.
- 1 Corinthians 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

## Conclusion

We see from the above verses, the Bible is the Written Word of God and the source of truth, what we need to know to live a happy and fruitful life in this world. Beware when people speak only of "Christ". Christ is a title, the same as Messiah. There are many false teachers today who claim to be Christ, both people and disembodied spirits! Only Jesus of Nazareth who died for our sins and was resurrected from the dead is the true Christ.

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Jesus called Satan the father of lies. He said to the Pharisees in John 8:44

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Paul referred to Satan as the god of this world in 2 Corinthians 4:4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

It therefore behooves us to learn the truth which exposes the lies of the Devil.

If you have any suggestions for additions to this Bible study on truth, please share them in the comments section. Thank you!

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## What is the Standard of Righteousness?



True righteousness is determined by our faith in Jesus Christ and the Word of God, not what society tells us.

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## Of the Catholic Priesthood Called Holy Orders – By Martin Luther



Of this sacrament the Church of Christ knows nothing; it was invented by the church of the Pope. It not only has no promise of grace, anywhere declared, but not a word is said about it in the whole of the New Testament. Now it is ridiculous to set up as a sacrament of God that which can nowhere be proved to have been instituted by God. Not that I consider that a rite practised for so many ages is to be condemned; but I would not have human inventions established in sacred things, nor should it be allowed to bring in anything as divinely ordained, which has not been divinely ordained; lest we should be objects of ridicule to our adversaries. We must endeavour that whatever we put forward as an article of the faith should be certain and uncorrupt and established by clear proofs from Scripture; and this we cannot show even in the slightest degree in the case of the present sacrament.

The Church has no power to establish new divine promises of grace, as some



senselessly assert, who say that, since the Church is governed by the Holy Spirit, whatever she ordains has no less authority than that which is ordained of God. The Church is born of the word of promise through faith, and is nourished and preserved by the same word; that is, she herself is established by the promises of God, not the promise of God by her. The word of God is incomparably above the Church, and her part is not to establish, ordain, or make anything in it, but only to be established, ordained, and made, as a creature. What man begets his own parent? Who establishes the authority by which he himself exists?

This power the Church certainly has—that she can distinguish the word of God from the words of men. So Augustine confesses that his motive for believing the gospel was the authority of the Church, which declared it to be the gospel. Not that the Church is therefore above the gospel; for, if so, she would also be above God, in whom we believe, since she declares Him to be God; but, as Augustine says elsewhere, the soul is so taken possession of by the truth, that thereby it can judge of all things with the utmost certainty, and yet cannot judge the truth itself, but is compelled by an infallible certainty to say that this is the truth. For example, the mind pronounces with infallible certainty that three and seven are ten, and yet can give no reason why this is true, while it cannot deny that it is true. In fact the mind itself is taken possession of, and, having truth as its judge, is judged rather than judges. Even such a perception is there in the Church, by the illumination of the Spirit, in judging and approving of doctrines; a perception which she cannot demonstrate, but which she holds as most sure. Just as among philosophers no one judges of those conceptions which are common to all, but everyone is judged by them, so is it among us with regard to that spiritual perception which judgeth all things, yet is judged of no man, as the Apostle says.

Let us take it then for certain that the Church cannot promise grace, to do which is the part of God alone, and therefore cannot institute a sacrament. And even, if she had the most complete power to do so, it would not forthwith follow, that orders are a sacrament. For who knows what is that Church which has the Spirit, when only a few bishops and learned men are usually concerned in setting up these laws and institutions? It is possible that these men may not be of the Church, and may all be in error; as councils have very often been in error, especially that of Constance, which has erred the most impiously of all. That only is a proved article of the faith which has been approved by the universal Church, and not by that of Rome alone. I grant therefore that orders may be a sort of church rite, like many others which have been introduced by the Fathers of the Church, such as the consecration of vessels, buildings, vestments, water, salt, candles, herbs, wine, and the like. In all these no one asserts that there is any sacrament, nor is there any promise in them. Thus the anointing of a man's hands, the shaving of his head, and other ceremonies of the kind, do not constitute a sacrament, since nothing is promised by these things, but they are merely employed to prepare men for certain offices, as in the case of vessels or instruments.

But it will be asked: What do you say to Dionysius, who reckons up six sacraments, among which he places Orders, in his Hierarchy of the Church? My

answer is: I know that he is the only one of the ancient authorities who is considered as holding seven sacraments, although, by the omission of matrimony, he has only given six. We read nothing at all in the rest of the Fathers about these sacraments, nor did they reckon them under the title of sacrament, when they spoke of these things, for the invention of such sacraments is a modern one. Then too—if I may be rash enough to say so—it is altogether unsatisfactory that so much importance should be attributed to this Dionysius, whoever he was, for there is almost nothing of solid learning in him. By what authority or reason, I ask, does he prove his inventions concerning angels in his *Celestial Hierarchy*, a book on the study of which curious and superstitious minds have spent so much labour? Are they not all fancies of his own, and very much like dreams, if we read them and judge them freely? In his mystic theology indeed, which is so much cried up by certain very ignorant theologians, he is even very mischievous, and follows Plato rather than Christ, so that I would not have any believing mind bestow even the slightest labour on the study of these books. You will be so far from learning Christ in them that, even if you know Him, you may lose Him. I speak from experience. Let us rather hear Paul, and learn Jesus Christ and Him crucified. For this is the way, the truth, and the life; this is the ladder by which we come to the Father, as it is written: “No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”

So in his *Hierarchy of the Church*, what does he do but describe certain ecclesiastical rites, amusing himself with his own allegories, which he does not prove, just as has been done in our time by the writer of the book called the *Rationale of Divine things*? This pursuit of allegories is only fit for men of idle minds. Could I have any difficulty in amusing myself with allegories about any created thing whatever? Did not Bonaventura apply the liberal arts allegorically to theology? It would give me no trouble to write a better *Hierarchy* than that of Dionysius, as he knew nothing of popes, cardinals, and archbishops, and made the bishops the highest order. Who, indeed, is there of such slender wits that he cannot venture upon allegory? I would not have a theologian bestow any attention upon allegories, until he is perfectly acquainted with the legitimate and simple meaning of Scripture; otherwise, as it happened to Origen, his theological speculations will not be without danger.

We must not then immediately make a sacrament of anything which Dionysius describes; otherwise why not make a sacrament of the procession which he describes in the same passage, and which continues in use even to the present day? Nay, there will be as many sacraments as there are rites and ceremonies which have grown up in the Church. Resting, however, on this very weak foundation, they have invented and attributed to this sacrament of theirs certain indelible characters, supposed to be impressed on those who receive orders. Whence, I ask, such fancies? By what authority, by what reasoning are they established? Not that we object to their being free to invent, learn, or assert whatever they please; but we also assert our own liberty, and say that they must not arrogate to themselves the right of making articles of the faith out of their own fancies, as they have hitherto had the presumption to do. It is enough that, for the sake of concord, we submit to their rights and inventions, but we will not be compelled to receive them as necessary to

salvation, when they are not necessary. Let them lay aside their tyrannical requirements, and we will show a ready compliance with their likings, that so we may live together in mutual peace. For it is a disgraceful, unjust, and slavish thing for a Christian man, who is free, to be subjected to any but heavenly and divine traditions.

After this they bring in their very strongest argument, namely, that Christ said at the last supper: "Do this in remembrance of me." "Behold!" they say, "Christ ordained them as priests." Hence, among other things, they have also asserted that it is to priests alone that both kinds should be administered. In fact they have extracted out of this text whatever they would; like men who claim the right to assert at their own free choice whatsoever they please out of any words of Christ, wherever spoken. But is this to interpret the words of God? Let us reply to them that in these words Christ gives no promise, but only a command that this should be done in remembrance of Him. Why do they not conclude that priests were ordained in that passage also where Christ, in laying upon them the ministry of the word and of baptism, said: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"? It is the peculiar office of priests to preach and to baptize. Again, since at the present day it is the very first business of a priest, and, as they say, an indispensable one, to read the canonical Hours; why have they not taken their idea of the sacrament of orders from those words in which Christ commanded His disciples—as he did in many other places, but especially in the garden of Gethsemane—to pray that they might not enter into temptation? Unless indeed they evade the difficulty by saying that it is not commanded to pray, for it suffices to read the canonical Hours; so that this cannot be proved to be a priestly work from any part of Scripture, and that consequently this praying priesthood is not of God; as indeed it is not.

Which of the ancient Fathers has asserted that by these words priests were ordained? Whence then this new interpretation? It is because it has been sought by this device to set up a source of implacable discord, by which clergy and laity might be placed farther asunder than heaven and earth, to the incredible injury of baptismal grace and confusion of evangelical communion. Hence has originated that detestable tyranny of the clergy over the laity, in which, trusting to the corporal unction by which their hands are consecrated, to their tonsure, and to their vestments, they not only set themselves above the body of lay Christians, who have been anointed with the Holy Spirit, but almost look upon them as dogs, unworthy to be numbered in the Church along with themselves. Hence it is that they dare to command, exact, threaten, drive, and oppress, at their will. In fine, the sacrament of orders has been and is a most admirable engine for the establishment of all those monstrous evils which have hitherto been wrought, and are yet being wrought, in the Church. In this way Christian brotherhood has perished; in this way shepherds have been turned into wolves, servants into tyrants, and ecclesiastics into more than earthly beings.

How if they were compelled to admit that we all, so many as have been baptized, are equally priests? We are so in fact, and it is only a ministry which has been entrusted to them, and that with our consent. They would then

know that they have no right to exercise command over us, except so far as we voluntarily allow of it. Thus it is said: "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." (1 Pet. ii. 9.) Thus all we who are Christians are priests; those whom we call priests are ministers chosen from among us to do all things in our name; and the priesthood is nothing else than a ministry. Thus Paul says: "Let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God." (1 Cor. iv. 1.)

From this it follows that he who does not preach the word, being called to this very office by the Church, is in no way a priest, and that the sacrament of orders can be nothing else than a ceremony for choosing preachers in the Church. This is the description given of a priest: "The priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts." (Malachi ii. 7.) Be sure then that he who is not a messenger of the Lord of hosts, or who is called to anything else than a messengership—if I may so speak—is certainly not a priest; as it is written: "Because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me." (Hosea iv. 6.) They are called pastors because it is their duty to give the people pasture, that is, to teach them. Therefore those who are ordained only for the purpose of reading the canonical Hours and offering up masses are popish priests indeed, but not Christian priests, since they not only do not preach but are not even called to be preachers; nay, it is the very thing intended, that a priesthood of this kind shall stand on a different footing from the office of preacher. Thus they are priests of Hours and missals, that is, a kind of living images, having the name of priests, but very far from being really so; such priests as those whom Jeroboam ordained in Beth-aven, taken from the lowest dregs of the people, and not from the family of Levi.

See then how far the glory of the Church has departed. The whole world is full of priests, bishops, cardinals, and clergy; of whom however, (so far as concerns their official duty) not one preaches—unless he be called afresh to this by another calling besides his sacramental orders—but thinks that he amply fulfils the purposes of that sacrament if he murmurs over, in a vain repetition, the prayers which he has to read, and celebrates masses. Even then, he never prays these very Hours, or, if he does pray, he prays for himself; while, as the very height of perversity, he offers up his masses as a sacrifice, though the mass is really the use of the sacrament. Thus it is clear that those orders by which, as a sacrament, men of this kind are ordained to be clergy, are in truth a mere and entire figment, invented by men who understand nothing of church affairs, of the priesthood, of the ministry of the word, or of the sacraments. Such as is the sacrament, such are the priests it makes. To these errors and blindnesses has been added a greater degree of bondage, in that, in order to separate themselves the more widely from all other Christians, as if these were profane, they have burdened themselves with a most hypocritical celibacy.

It was not enough for their hypocrisy and for the working of this error to prohibit bigamy, that is, the having two wives at the same time, as was done under the law—for we know that that is the meaning of bigamy—but they have interpreted it to be bigamy, if a man marries two virgins in succession, or a

widow once. Nay, the most sanctified sanctity of this most sacrosanct sacrament goes so far, that a man cannot even become a priest if he have married a virgin, as long as she is alive as his wife. And, in order to reach the very highest summit of sanctity, a man is kept out of the priesthood, if he have married one who was not a pure virgin, though it were in ignorance and merely by an unfortunate chance. But he may have polluted six hundred harlots, or corrupted any number of matrons or virgins, or even kept many Ganymedes, and it will be no impediment to his becoming a bishop or cardinal, or even Pope. Then the saying of the Apostle: "the husband of one wife," must be interpreted to mean: "the head of one church;" unless that magnificent dispenser the Pope, bribed with money or led by favour—that is to say, moved by pious charity, and urged by anxiety for the welfare of the churches—chooses to unite to one man three, twenty, or a hundred wives, that is, churches.

O pontiffs, worthy of this venerable sacrament of orders! O princes not of the Catholic churches, but of the synagogues of Satan, yea, of very darkness! We may well cry out with Isaiah: "Ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem" (Isaiah xxviii. 14); and with Amos: "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!" (Amos vi. 1.) O what disgrace to the Church of God from these monstrosities of sacerdotalism! Where are there any bishops or priests who know the gospel, not to say preach it? Why then do they boast of their priesthood? why do they wish to be thought holier and better and more powerful than other Christians, whom they call the laity? What unlearned person is not competent to read the Hours? Monks, hermits, and private persons, although laymen, may use the prayers of the Hours. The duty of a priest is to preach, and unless he does so, he is just as much a priest as the picture of a man is a man. Does the ordination of such babbling priests, the consecration of churches and bells, or the confirmation of children, constitute a bishop? Could not any deacon or layman do these things? It is the ministry of the word that makes a priest or a bishop.

Fly then, I counsel you; fly, young men, if ye wish to live in safety; and do not seek admission to these holy rites, unless ye are either willing to preach the gospel, or are able to believe that ye are not made any better than the laity by this sacrament of orders. To read the Hours is nothing. To offer the mass is to receive the sacrament. What then remains in you, which is not to be found in any layman? Your tonsure and your vestments? Wretched priesthood, which consists in tonsure and vestments! Is it the oil poured on your fingers? Every Christian is anointed and sanctified in body and soul with the oil of the Holy Spirit, and formerly was allowed to handle the sacrament no less than the priests now do; although our superstition now imputes it as a great crime to the laity, if they touch even the bare cup, or the corporal; and not even a holy nun is allowed to wash the altar cloths and sacred napkins. When I see how far the sacrosanct sanctity of these orders has already gone, I expect that the time will come when the laity will not even be allowed to touch the altar, except when they offer money. I almost burst with anger when I think of the impious tyrannies of these reckless men, who mock and ruin the liberty and glory of the religion of Christ by such

frivolous and puerile triflings.

Let every man then who has learnt that he is a Christian recognise what he is, and be certain that we are all equally priests; that is, that we have the same power in the word, and in any sacrament whatever; although it is not lawful for any one to use this power, except with the consent of the community, or at the call of a superior. For that which belongs to all in common no individual can arrogate to himself, until he be called. And therefore the sacrament of orders, if it is anything, is nothing but a certain rite by which men are called to minister in the Church. Furthermore, the priesthood is properly nothing else than the ministry of the word—I mean the word of the gospel, not of the law. The diaconate is a ministry, not for reading the gospel or the epistle, as the practice is nowadays, but for distributing the wealth of the Church among the poor, that the priests may be relieved of the burden of temporal things, and may give themselves more freely to prayer and to the word. It was for this purpose, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles, that deacons were appointed. Thus he who does not know the gospel, or does not preach it, is not only to priest or bishop, but a kind of pest to the Church, who, under the false title of priest or bishop, as it were in sheep's clothing, hinders the gospel, and acts the part of the wolf in the Church.

Wherefore those priests and bishops with whom the Church is crowded at the present day, unless they work out their salvation on another plan—that is, unless they acknowledge themselves to be neither priests nor bishops, and repent of bearing the name of an office the work of which they either do not know, or cannot fulfil, and thus deplore with prayers and tears the miserable fate of their hypocrisy—are verily the people of eternal perdition, concerning whom the saying will be fulfilled: “My people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure; and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.” (Isaiah v. 13, 14.) O word of dread for our age, in which Christians are swallowed up in such an abyss of evil!

As far then as we are taught from the Scriptures, since what we call the priesthood is a ministry, I do not see at all for what reason a man who has once been made priest cannot become a layman again, since he differs in no wise from a layman, except by his ministerial office. But it is so far from impossible for a man to be set aside from the ministry, that even now this punishment is constantly inflicted on offending priests, who are either suspended for a time, or deprived for ever of their office. For that fiction of an indelible character has long ago become an object of derision. I grant that the Pope may impress this character, though Christ knows nothing of it, and for this very reason the priest thus consecrated is the lifelong servant and bondsman, not of Christ, but of the Pope, as it is at this day. But, unless I deceive myself, if at some future time this sacrament and figment fall to the ground, the Papacy itself will scarcely hold its ground, and we shall recover that joyful liberty in which we shall understand that we are all equal in every right, and shall shake off the yoke of tyranny and know

that he who is a Christian has Christ, and he who has Christ has all things that are Christ's, and can do all things—on which I will write more fully and more vigorously when I find that what I have here said displeases my friends the papists.

[ Next: [On the Sacrament of Extreme Unction](#) ]

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## [Of Matrimony – By Martin Luther](#)



It is not only without any warrant of Scripture that matrimony is considered a sacrament, but it has been turned into a mere mockery by the very same traditions which vaunt it as a sacrament. Let us look a little into this. I have said that in every sacrament there is contained a word of divine promise, which must be believed in by him who receives the sign; and that the sign alone cannot constitute a sacrament. Now we nowhere read that he who marries a wife will receive any grace from God; neither is there in matrimony any sign of divine institution, nor do we anywhere read that it was appointed of God to be a sign of anything; although it is true that all visible transactions may be understood as figures and allegorical representations of invisible things. But figures and allegories are not sacraments, in the sense in which we are speaking of sacraments.

Furthermore, since matrimony has existed from the beginning of the world, and still continues even among unbelievers, there are no reasons why it should be called a sacrament of the new law, and of the Church alone. The marriages of the patriarchs were not less marriages than ours, nor are those of unbelievers less real than those of believers; and yet no one calls them a sacrament. Moreover there are among believers wicked husbands and wives, worse than any Gentiles. Why should we then say there is a sacrament here, and not among the Gentiles? Shall we so trifle with baptism and the Church as to say, like those who rave about the temporal power existing only in the

Church, that matrimony is a sacrament only in the Church? Such assertions are childish and ridiculous, and by them we expose our ignorance and rashness to the laughter of unbelievers.

It will be asked however: Does not the Apostle say that "they two shall be one flesh," and that "this is a great sacrament;" and will you contradict the plain words of the Apostle? I reply that this argument is a very dull one, and proceeds from a careless and thoughtless reading of the original. Throughout the holy Scriptures this word "sacramentum," has not the meaning in which we employ it, but an opposite one. For it everywhere signifies, not the sign of a sacred thing, but a sacred thing which is secret and hidden. Thus Paul says: "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries (that is, sacraments) of God." (1 Cor. iv. 1.) Where we use the Latin term "sacrament," in Greek the word "mystery" is employed; and thus in Greek the words of the Apostle are: "They two shall be one flesh; this is a great mystery." This ambiguity has led men to consider marriage as a sacrament of the new law, which they would have been far from doing, if they had read the word "mystery," as it is in the Greek.

Thus the Apostle calls Christ himself a "sacrament," saying: "And without controversy great is the sacrament (that is, mystery) of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." (1 Tim. iii. 16.) Why have they not deduced from this an eighth sacrament of the new law, under such clear authority from Paul? Or, if they restrained themselves in this case, where they might so suitably have been copious in the invention of sacraments, why are they so lavish of them in the other? It is because they have been misled by their ignorance as well of things as of words; they have been caught by the mere sound of the words and by their own fancies. Having once, on human authority, taken a sacrament to be a sign, they have proceeded, without any judgment or scruple, to make the word mean a sign, wherever they have met with it in the sacred writings. Just as they have imported other meanings of words and human habits of speech into the sacred writings, and transformed these into dreams of their own, making anything out of anything. Hence their constant senseless use of the words: good works, bad works, sin, grace, righteousness, virtue, and almost all the most important words and things. They use all these at their own discretion, founded on the writings of men, to the ruin of the truth of God and of our salvation.

Thus sacrament and mystery, in Paul's meaning, are the very wisdom of the Spirit, hidden in a mystery, as he says: "Which none of the princes of this world knew; for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." (1 Cor. ii. 8.) There remains to this day this folly, this stone of stumbling and rock of offence, this sign which shall be spoken against. Paul calls preachers the stewards of these mysteries, because they preach Christ, the power and wisdom of God; but so preach him that unless men believe, they cannot understand. Thus a sacrament means a mystery and a hidden thing, which is made known by words, but is received by faith of heart. Such is the passage of which we are speaking at present: "They two shall be one flesh; this is a great mystery." These men think that this was said concerning matrimony; but Paul brings in these words in speaking of Christ and the



Church, and explains his meaning clearly by saying: "I speak concerning Christ and the Church." See how well Paul and these men agree! Paul says that he is setting forth a great mystery concerning Christ and the Church; while they set it forth as concerning male and female. If men may thus indulge their own caprices in interpreting the sacred writings, what wonder if anything can be found in them, were it even a hundred sacraments?

Christ then and the Church are a mystery, that is, a great and hidden thing, which may indeed and ought to be figured by matrimony, as in a sort of real allegory; but it does not follow that matrimony ought to be called a sacrament. The heavens figuratively represent the apostles; the sun Christ; the waters nations; but these things are not therefore sacraments; for in all these cases the institution is wanting and the divine promise; and these it is which make a sacrament complete. Hence Paul is either, of his own spirit, applying to Christ the words used in Genesis concerning matrimony, or else he teaches that, in their general sense, the spiritual marriage of Christ is also there declared, saying: "Even as the Lord cherisheth the Church; for we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church." (Eph. v. 29–32.) We see that he means this whole text to be understood as spoken by him about Christ. He purposely warns the reader to understand the "Sacrament" as in Christ and the Church, not in matrimony.

I admit, indeed, that even under the old law, nay, from the beginning of the world, there was a sacrament of penitence; but the new promise of penitence and the gift of the keys are peculiar to the new law. As we have baptism in the place of circumcision, so we now have the keys in the place of sacrifices or other signs of penitence. I have said above that, at different times, the same God has given different promises and different signs for the remission of sins and the salvation of men, while yet it is the same grace that all have received. As it is written: "We, having the same spirit of faith, believe, and therefore speak." (2 Cor. iv. 13.) "Our fathers did all eat the same spiritual meat, and did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ." (1 Cor. x. 3, 4.) "These all died in faith, not having received the promises; God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." (Heb. xi. 13, 40.) For Christ himself, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever, is the head of his Church from the beginning even to the end of the world. There are then different signs, but the faith of all believers is the same; since without faith it is impossible to please God, and by it Abel pleased Him.

Let then matrimony be a figure of Christ and the Church, not however a sacrament divinely instituted, but one invented in the Church by men led astray by their ignorance alike of things and of words. So far as this invention is not injurious to the faith, it must be borne with in charity; just as many other devices of human weakness and ignorance are borne with in the Church, so long as they are not injurious to faith and to the sacred writings. But we are now contending for the firmness and purity of faith and of Scripture; lest, if we affirm anything to be contained in the sacred

writings and in the articles of our faith, and it is afterwards proved not to be so contained, we should expose our faith to mockery, be found ignorant of our own special business, cause scandal to our adversaries and to the weak, and fail to exalt the authority of holy Scripture. For we must make the widest possible distinction between those things which have been delivered to us from God in the sacred writings, and those which have been invented in the Church by men, of however eminent authority from their holiness and their learning.

Thus far I have spoken of matrimony itself. But what shall we say of those impious human laws by which this divinely appointed manner of life has been entangled and tossed up and down? Good God! it is horrible to look upon the temerity of the tyrants of Rome, who thus, according to their own caprices, at one time annul marriages and at another time enforce them. Is the human race given over to their caprice for nothing but to be mocked and abused in every way, and that these men may do what they please with it for the sake of their own fatal gains?

There is a book in general circulation and held in no slight esteem, which has been confusedly put together out of all the dregs and filth of human traditions, and entitled the Angelic Summary; while it is really a more than diabolical summary. In this book, among an infinite number of monstrous statements, by which confessors are supposed to be instructed, while they are in truth most ruinously confused, eighteen impediments to matrimony are enumerated. If we look at these with the just and free eye of faith, we shall see that the writer is of the number of those of whom the Apostle foretold that they should "give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; forbidding to marry." (1 Tim. iv. 1-3.) What is forbidding to marry, if this is not forbidding it—to invent so many impediments, and to set so many snares, that marriages cannot be contracted, or, if they are contracted, must be dissolved? Who has given this power to men? Granted that such men have been holy and led by a pious zeal; why does the holiness of another encroach upon my liberty? Why does the zeal of another bring me into bondage? Let whosoever will be as holy and as zealous as he will, but let him not injure others, or rob me of my liberty.

I rejoice, however, that these disgraceful laws have at length attained the glory they deserve, in that by their aid the men of Rome have nowadays become common traders. And what do they sell? The shame of men and women; a merchandise worthy of these traffickers, who surpass all that is most sordid and disgusting in their avarice and impiety. There is not one of those impediments, which cannot be removed at the intercession of Mammon; so that these laws seem to have been made for no other purpose than to be nets for money and snares for souls in the hands of those greedy and rapacious Nimrods; and in order that we might see in the holy place, in the Church of God, the abomination of the public sale of the shame and ignominy of both sexes. A business worthy of our pontiffs, and fit to be carried on by men who, with the utmost disgrace and baseness, are given over to a reprobate mind, instead of that ministry of the gospel which, in their avarice and ambition, they despise.

But what am I to say or do? If I were to enter upon every particular, this

treatise would extend beyond all bounds; for the subject is in the utmost confusion, so that no one can tell where he is to begin, how far he is to go, or where he is to stop. This I know, that no commonwealth can be prosperously administered by mere laws. If the magistrate is a wise man, he will govern more happily under the guidance of nature than by any laws; if he is not a wise man, he will effect nothing but mischief by laws, since he will not know how to use them, or to adapt them to the wants of the time. In public matters, therefore, it is of more importance that good and wise men should be at the head of affairs, than that any laws should be passed; for such men will themselves be the best of laws, since they will judge cases of all kinds with energy and justice. If, together with natural wisdom, there be learning in divine things, then it is clearly superfluous and mischievous to have any written laws; and charity above all things has absolutely no need of laws. I say, however, and do all that in me lies, admonishing and entreating all priests and friars, if they see any impediment with which the Pope can dispense, but which is not mentioned in Scripture, to consider all those marriages valid which have been contracted, in whatever way, contrary to ecclesiastical or pontifical laws. Let them arm themselves with the Divine law which says: What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. The union of husband and wife is one of divine right, and holds good, however much against the laws of men it may have taken place, and the laws of men ought to give place to it, without any scruple. For if a man is to leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, how much more ought he to tread under foot the frivolous and unjust laws of men, that he may cleave to his wife? If the Pope, or any bishop or official, dissolves any marriage, because it has been contracted contrary to the papal laws, he is an antichrist, does violence to nature, and is guilty of treason against God; because this sentence stands: Whom God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Besides this, man has no right to make such laws, and the liberty bestowed on Christians through Christ is above all the laws of men, especially when the divine law comes in, as Christ says: "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath; therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." (Mark ii. 27-28.) Again, such laws were condemned beforehand by Paul, when he foretold that those should arise who would forbid to marry. Hence in this matter all those rigorous impediments derived from spiritual affinity, or legal relationship and consanguinity, must give way, as far as is permitted by the sacred writings, in which only the second grade of consanguinity is prohibited, as it is written in the book of Leviticus, where twelve persons are prohibited, namely:—mother, step-mother, full sister, half sister by either parent, grand-daughter, father's sister, mother's sister, daughter-in-law, brother's wife, wife's sister, step-daughter, uncle's wife. In these only the first grade of affinity and the second of consanguinity are prohibited, and not even these universally, as is clear when we look carefully at the subject; for the daughter and grand-daughter of a brother and sister are not mentioned as prohibited, though they are in the second grade. Hence, if at any time a marriage has been contracted outside these grades, than which no others have ever been prohibited by God's appointment, it ought by no means to be dissolved on account of any laws of men. Matrimony, being a divine institution, is incomparably above all laws, and therefore it cannot rightfully be broken through for the sake of laws, but

rather laws for its sake.

Thus all those fanciful spiritual affinities of father, mother, brother, sister, or child, ought to be utterly done away with in the contracting of matrimony. What but the superstition of man has invented that spiritual relationship? If he who baptizes is not permitted to marry her whom he has baptized, or a godfather his god-daughter, why is a Christian man permitted to marry a Christian woman? Is the relationship established by a ceremony or by the sign of the sacrament stronger than that established by the substance itself of the sacrament? Is not a Christian man the brother of a Christian sister? Is not a baptized man the spiritual brother of a baptized woman? How can we be so senseless? If a man instructs his wife in the gospel and in the faith of Christ, and thus becomes truly her father in Christ, shall it not be lawful for her to continue his wife? Would not Paul have been at liberty to marry a maiden from among those Corinthians, all of whom he declares that he had begotten in Christ? See, then, how Christian liberty has been crushed by the blindness of human superstition!

Much more idle still is the doctrine of legal relationship; and yet they have raised even this above the divine right of matrimony. Nor can I agree to that impediment which they call disparity of religion, and which forbids a man to marry an unbaptized woman, neither simply, nor on condition of converting her to the faith. Who has prohibited this, God or man? Who has given men authority to prohibit marriages of this kind? Verily the spirits that speak lies in hypocrisy, as Paul says; of whom it may be truly said: The wicked have spoken lies to me, but not according to thy law. Patricius, a heathen, married Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, who was a Christian; why should not the same thing be lawful now? A like instance of foolish, nay wicked rigour is the impediment of crime; as when a man marries a woman previously polluted by adultery, or has plotted the death of a woman's husband, that he may be able to marry her. Whence, I ask, a severity on the part of men against men, such as even God has never exacted? Do these men pretend not to know that David, a most holy man, married Bathsheba the wife of Uriah, though both these crimes had been committed; that is, though she had been polluted by adultery and her husband had been murdered? If the divine law did this, why do tyrannical men act thus against their fellow servants?

It is also reckoned as an impediment when there exists what they call a bond; that is, when one person is bound to another by betrothal. In this case they conclude that if either party have subsequently had intercourse with a third, the former betrothal comes to an end. I cannot at all receive this doctrine. In my judgment, a man who has bound himself to one person is no longer at his own disposal, and therefore, under the prohibitions of the divine right, owes himself to the former, though he has not had intercourse with her, even if he have afterwards had intercourse with another. It was not in his power to give what he did not possess; he has deceived her with whom he has had intercourse, and has really committed adultery. That which has led some to think otherwise is that they have looked more to the fleshly union than to the divine command, under which he who has promised fidelity to one person is bound to observe it. He who desires to give, ought to give of that which is his own. God forbid that any man should go beyond or defraud his brother in

any matter; for good faith ought to be preserved beyond and above all traditions of all men. Thus I believe that such a man cannot with a safe conscience cohabit with a second woman, and that this impediment ought to be entirely reversed. If a vow of religion deprives a man of his power over himself, why not also a pledge of fidelity given and received; especially since the latter rests on the teaching and fruits of the Spirit (Gal. v.), while the former rests on human choice? And if a wife may return to her husband, notwithstanding any vow of religion she may have made, why should not a betrothed man return to his betrothed, even if connexion with another have followed? We have said, however, above that a man who has pledged his faith to a maiden is not at liberty to make a vow of religion, but is bound to marry her, because he is bound to keep his faith, and is not at liberty to abandon it for the sake of any human tradition, since God commands that it should be kept. Much more will it be his duty to observe his pledge to the first to whom he has given it, because it was only with a deceitful heart that he could give it to a second; and therefore he has not really given it, but has deceived his neighbour, against the law of God. Hence the impediment called that of error takes effect here, and annuls the marriage with the second woman.

The impediment of holy orders is also a mere contrivance of men, especially when they idly assert that even a marriage already contracted is annulled by this cause, always exalting their own traditions above the commands of God. I give no judgment respecting the order of the priesthood, such as it is at the present day; but I see that Paul commands that a bishop should be the husband of one wife, and therefore the marriage of a deacon, of a priest, of a bishop, or of a man in any kind of orders, cannot be annulled; although Paul knew nothing of that kind of priests and those orders which we have at the present day. Perish then these accursed traditions of men, which have come in for no other end than to multiply perils, sins, and evils in the Church! Between a priest and his wife, then, there is a true and inseparable marriage, approved by the divine command. What if wicked men forbid or annul it of their own mere tyranny? Be it that it is unlawful in the sight of men; yet it is lawful in the sight of God, whose commandment, if it be contrary to the commandments of men, is to be preferred.

Just as much a human contrivance is the so-called impediment of public propriety, by which contracted marriages are annulled. I am indignant at the audacious impiety which is so ready to separate what God has joined together. You may recognise Antichrist in this opposition to everything which Christ did or taught. What reason is there, I ask, why, on the death of a betrothed husband before actual marriage, no relative by blood, even to the fourth degree, can marry her who was betrothed to him? This is no vindication of public propriety, but mere ignorance of it. Why among the people of Israel, which possessed the best laws, given by God himself, was there no such vindication of public propriety? On the contrary, by the very command of God, the nearest relative was compelled to marry her who had been left a widow. Ought the people who are in Christian liberty to be burdened with more rigid laws than the people who were in legal bondage? And to make an end of these figments rather than impediments, I will say that at present it is evident to me that there is no impediment which can rightfully annul a marriage already

contracted, except physical unfitness for cohabiting with a wife, ignorance of a marriage previously contracted, or a vow of chastity. Concerning such a vow, however, I am so uncertain even to the present moment, that I do not know at what time it ought to be reckoned valid; as I have said above in speaking of baptism. Learn then, in this one matter of matrimony, into what an unhappy and hopeless state of confusion, hindrance, entanglement, and peril all things that are done in the Church have been brought by the pestilent, unlearned, and impious traditions of men! There is no hope of a remedy, unless we can do away once for all with all the laws of all men, call back the gospel of liberty, and judge and rule all things according to it alone. Amen.

It is necessary also to deal with the question of physical incapacity. But be it premised that I desire what I have said about impediments to be understood of marriages already contracted, which ought not to be annulled for any such causes. But with regard to the contracting of matrimony I may briefly repeat what I have said before, that if there be any urgency of youthful love, or any other necessity, on account of which the Pope grants a dispensation, then any brother can also grant a dispensation to his brother, or himself to himself, and thus snatch his wife, in whatever way he can, out of the hands of tyrannical laws. Why is my liberty to be done away with by another man's superstition and ignorance? Or if the Pope gives dispensation for money, why may not I give a dispensation to my brother or to myself for the advantage of my own salvation? Does the Pope establish laws? Let him establish them for himself, but let my liberty be untouched.

The question of divorce is also discussed, whether it be lawful. I, for my part, detest divorce, and even prefer bigamy to it; but whether it be lawful I dare not define. Christ himself, the chief of shepherds, says: "Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery; and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." (Matt. v. 32.) Christ therefore permits divorce only in the case of fornication. Hence the Pope must necessarily be wrong, as often as he permits divorce for other reasons, nor ought any man forthwith to consider himself safe, because he has obtained a dispensation by pontifical audacity rather than power. I am more surprised, however, that they compel a man who has been separated from his wife by divorce to remain single, and do not allow him to marry another. For if Christ permits divorce for the cause of fornication, and does not compel any man to remain single, and if Paul bids us rather to marry than to burn, this seems plainly to allow of a man's marrying another in the place of her whom he has put away. I wish that this subject were fully discussed and made clear, that provision might be made for the numberless perils of those who at the present day are compelled to remain single without any fault of their own; that is, whose wives or husbands have fled and deserted their partner, not to return for ten years, or perhaps never. I am distressed and grieved by these cases, which are of daily occurrence, whether this happens by the special malice of Satan, or from our neglect of the word of God.

I cannot by myself establish any rule contrary to the opinion of all; but for my own part, I should exceedingly wish at least to see applied to this

subject the words: "But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases" (1 Cor. vii. 15). Here the Apostle permits that the unbelieving one who departs should be let go, and leaves it free to the believer to take another. Why should not the same rule hold good, if a believer, that is, a nominal believer, but in reality just as much an unbeliever, deserts husband or wife, especially if with the intention of never returning? I cannot discover any distinction between the two cases. In my belief, however, if in the Apostle's time the unbeliever who had departed had returned, or had become a believer, or had promised to live with the believing wife, he would not have been received, but would himself have been authorised to marry another woman. Still, I give no definite opinion on these questions, though I greatly wish that a definite rule were laid down, for there is nothing which more harasses me and many others. I would not have any rule on this point laid down by the sole authority of the Pope or the bishops; but if any two learned and good men agreed together in the name of Christ, and pronounced a decision in the spirit of Christ, I should prefer their judgment even to that of councils, such as are assembled nowadays, which are celebrated simply for their number and authority, independently of learning and holiness. I therefore suspend my utterances on this subject, until I can confer with some better judge.

[ Next: [Of the Priesthood known as Holy Orders](#) ]

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## [Concerning the Lord's Supper – By Martin Luther](#)



What Martin Luther taught about the Roman Catholic sacrament of the Eucharist.