

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

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All Christian religious institutions have teachings that either confirm or deny them as a true Christian church. For instance, the Mormons believe that God the Father and Jesus are two of *many* gods and actually, a lesser two, but the Bible declares there is no greater God than the Lord (John 17:1f.). Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus is the angel Michael. The Scriptures, though, teach that Jesus is God the Son, not an angel nor any other created being (John 1:1-3, 14, 18; 3:16, 18; Acts 13:33). Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses then, are not Christian churches. They are deceived and will find themselves in Hell on Judgment Day, but what about the Roman Catholic Church? There are many good things the Roman Church does, but their teaching on salvation, and also Mary, takes Catholicism out of the realm of a Christian church.

Rome teaches that being sprinkled as a newborn infant and 'belonging' to the Catholic Church guarantees 'Heaven,' but Jesus expressly said, Except you be *Born Again* you shall not *enter*, nor even *see* the Kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5). Only by being Born Again can you begin to know and be *like* Jesus (Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:10) because *that's* when the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within you, which is essential for salvation. Most Catholics don't realize this because this crucial, foundational doctrine is generally not taught.

The Roman Church teaches that Mary was sinless; that she was taken to Heaven (without dying), and she is *the conduit* the Holy Spirit uses to extend grace to Catholics, and that veneration is due her, and you should pray to her. *Nowhere in God's Word*, though, does it say that Mary was sinless, nor that she was taken to Heaven without dying, nor that she is the vehicle through which God's grace comes to us, nor that we should venerate or pray to her. These traditional Catholic teachings directly oppose the Holy Scriptures. Dear friend; ask your priest and you'll see that Catholicism has no Scriptures to support their teachings about Mary.

The Pope says the traditions (teachings) of the Catholic Church are *equal* to the Word of God,¹ but nowhere does the Bible say that. God says: "Whatever I command you, you must be careful to observe it. You must *not add* to it *nor take away from it*" (Dt. 12:32). Roman teachings about salvation and Mary are traditions of the Catholic Church that *nullify* God's Word, and as such, Rome falls into the same category that Jesus placed the Pharisees in. For they, too, taught as the commandments of God their traditions that nullified God's Word, and Jesus Christ was not pleased with them, calling them hypocrites and telling us *not to follow them nor their teachings* (Mt. 15:1-9, 14; 16:11-12).

You, dear friend, have to choose who you are going to follow: the Pope or God. Yes, it's that serious. These two examples of Catholic teachings are only the tip of the iceberg that nullifies Rome from being a Christian Church, and if you continue as a Catholic it will cost you your eternal life. Most Catholics can expect the same decision on Judgment Day that Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses will hear.²

What can a Catholic do? Read the Bible and ask Jesus to show you the falsehood of Catholicism. Then tell Jesus that you renounce your allegiance to the Roman Church (Rev. 18:4), and that you want Him to forgive you of your sins, to be Born Again and filled with His Spirit (Acts 2:1f.) *and* wait upon Him until you *encounter* the risen Savior within you! Then you will *know* that you are part of His Kingdom and can begin to walk out your faith in Him the way He wants you to (1st John 2:6). With this new birth comes a daily spiritual relationship with the Lord of Life and He will direct you as to how He wants you to live out your faith in Him. After all, He is the Good Shepherd and He knows how to take care of His sheep (John 10:1f.).

¹ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Image, Doubleday Publishing; English version, 1994, p. 31, point 82.

² Read Alexander Hislop's, *The Two Babylons* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Two-Babylons.pdf> to see the full extent of what's wrong with Catholicism. Contact me at my website above if you have any questions. (30 March 2016)