



What are the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church that distinguish it from other Christian churches?

Whole books have been written on this subject, but a sampling of the doctrines will be outlined here.

Roman Catholicism

The bishops, with the Pope as their head, rule the universal Church.

Biblical Teaching

Christ, the head of the body, rules the universal church. (Colossians 1:18)

Roman Catholicism

God has entrusted the Bible to the bishops.

Biblical Teaching

God has entrusted the Bible to Christians. (Jude 3)

Roman Catholicism

The Pope is infallible in his teaching.

Biblical Teaching

God alone is infallible. (Numbers 23:19; Acts 17:11)

Roman Catholicism

Scripture and Tradition together are the Word of God.

Biblical Teaching

Scripture alone is the Word of God. (John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Mark 7:1-13)

Roman Catholicism

Mary is the co-redeemer, for she participated with Christ in the painful act of redemption.

Biblical Teaching

Christ alone is the Redeemer, for He alone suffered and died for sin (1 Peter 1:18,19).

Roman Catholicism

Mary is the co-mediator, to whom we can entrust all our cares and petitions.

Biblical Teaching

Christ Jesus is the one mediator to whom we can entrust all our cares and petitions. (1 Timothy 2:5; John 14:13,14; 1 Peter 5:7)

Roman Catholicism

Initial justification is by means of baptism.

Biblical Teaching

Justification is by faith alone. (Romans 3:28)

Roman Catholicism

Adults must prepare for justification through faith and good works.

Biblical Teaching

God justifies ungodly sinners who believe (Romans 4:5). Good works are the result of salvation, not the cause.

Roman Catholicism

Grace is merited by good works.

Biblical Teaching

Grace is a free gift. (Romans 11:6)

Roman Catholicism

Salvation is attained by cooperating with grace through faith, good works, and participation in the sacraments.

Biblical Teaching

Salvation is attained by grace through faith apart from works. (Ephesians 2:10)

Roman Catholicism

No one can know if he will attain eternal life.

Biblical Teaching

The believer can know that he has eternal life by the Word of God and the testimony of the Holy Spirit who indwells believers. (1 John 5:13; Romans 8:16)

Roman Catholicism

The Roman Catholic Church is necessary for salvation.

Biblical Teaching

There is salvation in no one but the Lord Jesus Christ, "for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved". (Acts 4:12)

Roman Catholicism

Christ's body and blood exist wholly and entirely in every fragment of consecrated bread and wine in every Roman Catholic church around the world.

Biblical Teaching

The bread and wine are symbols of the body and blood of Christ, and He is bodily present in heaven. (1 Corinthians 11:23-25; Hebrews 10:12,13)

Roman Catholicism

The sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated in the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Biblical Teaching

The sacrifice of the cross is finished.
(John 19:30)

Roman Catholicism

Each sacrifice of the Mass appeases
God's wrath against sin.

Biblical Teaching

The once-for-all sacrifice of the cross
fully appeased God's wrath against sin.
(Hebrews 10:12-18)

Roman Catholicism

The sacrificial work of redemption
is continually carried out through the
sacrifice of the Mass.

Biblical Teaching

The sacrificial work of redemption
was finished when Christ gave His life
for us on the cross.
(Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 1:3)

These doctrines don't date back all
the way to Constantine, except for per-
haps in seed form, but were slowly
adopted over many years as various
popes issued decrees. In many cases, the
doctrines are not even based on Scrip-
ture, but on a document of the church.
Most Roman Catholics consider them-
selves to be Christians and are unaware
of the differences between their beliefs
and the Bible. Sadly, the Roman Catholic
Church has fostered that ignorance by
discouraging the personal study of the
Bible and making the people reliant on
the priests for their understanding of the
Bible.

www.gotquestions.org/Roman-Catholicism.html#ixzz2MWNiYmUV

**For further in-depth consideration of
How The Roman Catholic Church and
Biblical Christianity are different please
review these materials:**

ARE CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND PRACTICES BIBLICAL?

www.gotquestions.org/Catholic-Biblical.html

WHAT IS THE CATHOLIC SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST?

www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Eucharist.html

ARE THE SEVEN CATHOLIC SACRAMENTS BIBLICAL?

www.gotquestions.org/seven-Catholic-sacraments.html

WHAT IS EXTREME UNCTION / LAST RITES?

www.gotquestions.org/extreme-unction.html

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT CONFESSION OF SIN TO A PRIEST?

www.gotquestions.org/confession-sin-priest.html

WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

www.gotquestions.org/Catholic-abuse.html

I AM A CATHOLIC. WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER BECOMING A CHRISTIAN?

www.gotquestions.org/Catholic-Christian.html

CATHOLIC QUESTIONS ?

www.gotquestions.org/Catholic-questions.html

GotQuestions.org is not a Catholic
ministry. We strongly believe that the Bi-
ble is to be our guide for faith and prac-
tice. While we recognize the value of
church traditions, we refuse to accept any
tradition that is not clearly supported by
the Word of God. Our "conflict" with Ca-
tholicism is in regards to the proper inter-
pretation of the Bible.

*For God so loved the world that
he gave his only and unique Son,
so that everyone who trusts in him
may have eternal life, instead of
being utterly destroyed.*

John 3:16



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