

Catholicism

I. Background

The claim is that the Catholic Church started in the days of the apostles and Peter was identified as the first Pope. They took the following Matt. 16:15-18 out of context attempting to teach that Peter was the rock on which the church was built. In its proper context the foundation for the church is Jesus and the truth that He is the Christ, the Son of God. Catholicism started at Rome. Constantine, Emperor of Rome, gave church leaders political power. Leo, Bishop of Rome, declared himself as Pope. So Catholicism started at this time at Rome with the Bishop of Rome.

Matthew 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? **16** And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. **17** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. **18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Note: Peter: Petros [4074][162 times][Peter-161][stone-1- John 1:42]

Rock: Petra [4073][16 times][16-Rock][See I Cor 10:4]

2. Different beliefs of Catholicism:

- a) Their source of rules and guidelines: Note: It should be the Bible only.
 - 1) The Bible plus the Apocrypha
 - 2) Church tradition
 - 3) Papal Infallibility
 - 4) Declarations from the Councils (3 main Councils mentioned later)

Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: **19** And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

b) Mary

- 1) They teach that Mary was sinless from conception.
- 2) Immaculate Conception: She was unable to sin.
- 3) They teach that Mary was assumed, body and soul, into heaven. This is called the Assumption of Mary.
- 4) Mary is said to be the intercessor between mankind and God and Catholics are told to pray to her. This is chanted in the Rosary. "Hail Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners". *Rosary defined as follows. A form of devotion to the Virgin Mary, chiefly consisting of three sets of five decades each of the Hail Mary, each decade preceded by the Lord's Prayer and ending with a doxology.*
- 5) She is wrongfully called the Mother of God. Mary is the mother of Jesus' human side, and not the mother of God.
- 6) Mary is said to have appeared in Fatima, Portugal in 1917.

The following verses prove that Mary was no longer a virgin **after** the birth of Jesus.
Matthew 13:55-56 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? **56** And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this *man* all these things?

The following verse shows that Jesus is the only mediator.

1 Timothy 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

- c) The Seven Sacraments (Works for Salvation)
 - 1) Baptism for infants teaching that baptism erases original sin and baptism at twelve
 - 2) Confirmation
 - 3) Holy Eucharist (Communion) or (Mass)
 - 4) Reconciliation or penance (Number of prayers needed to get forgiveness)
 - 5) Anointing of the sick
 - 6) Holy Orders
 - 7) Matrimony

Notice the following Verses:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Titus 3:5 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;

- d) Papal Infallibility (Ex cathedra) The ecumenical councils of bishops and the pope speaking ex cathedra are immune from error when teaching concerning faith and morals. Such teachings are considered equal with scripture. The Pope has power to forgive sins.
- e) Sacerdotalism (Belief in the power of priests as essential mediators between God and man.) This contradicts **1 Tim. 2:5**.
- f) Mass: The elements (bread and wine) actually become the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. This change is called "transubstantiation"
- g) Purgatory: [In The New Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. 11, p. 1034] "the state, place, or condition in the next world, which will continue until the last judgment, where the souls of those who die in the state of grace, but not yet free from all imperfection, make expiation for unforgiven venial sins or for the temporal punishment due to venial and mortal sins that have already been forgiven and, by so doing, are purified before they enter heaven." By the church's own admission, the Catholic doctrine on purgatory is based on tradition, not Sacred Scripture. It is also taught that those in purgatory can be

helped by the prayers and good works of those on earth. This is contradictory to **Luke 16:19-31**.

- h) Three major Roman Catholic Councils:
 - 1) Council of Trent (1545-1563)
@ this Council, the Roman Catholic Church recognized the Apocrypha, accepting I and II Esdras and the Prayer of Manasses, as having unqualified canonical status.
 - 2) Vatican I (1869-1870) 3) Vatican II (1962-1965)These Councils actually manufacture and alter previous teachings. Ignoring the warning in **Rev. 22:18-19**
- i) Peter: It is said in Catholicism that Peter was the first pope. With this in mind, Catholicism teaches that Popes cannot marry. Peter was married. See **Matt 8:14; Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38**.
- j) Indulgence system: Indulgences were associated with the sacrament of penance. After one had repented of sin and had confessed sin, one was assured of absolution by the priest. Provided satisfaction was made. This satisfaction might be a pilgrimage to a shrine, a payment of a sum to a church, or some meritorious deed. The indulgence was a document that could be bought for a sum of money and that would free one from the temporal penalty of sin. This dogma was formulated by Alexander of Hales in the 13th century. A later papal bull extended this privilege to souls in purgatory, provided their living relatives purchased indulgences for them. **Heb 9:22** "...without shedding of blood is no remission".
- k) Excommunication: Since Catholicism teaches that if you are not a part of the Catholic church you can not even make it to purgatory, if an individual is excommunicated from the church, they are sentenced to Hell with no hope. Jesus said in **John 6:37** "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."
- l) Catholicism teaches that their popes and priests have the authority from God to forgive sins. They take **John 20:23** out of context to prove this. **23:** Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. Remitted and retained are in the perfect tense meaning a completed act in the past that has a continuing effect. This means the persons sins have been remitted or their sins have been retained. Now notice **Matt. 16:19 19:** And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. The only one that can forgive sins is God. The closest we can come to helping people to get their sins forgiven is to encourage them to trust Christ as their Savior.
- m) Jesus is the only way to get forgiveness and the only way to heaven. **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. **Acts 4:12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.