

A Bible Believer's Handbook on Roman Catholicism

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TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Foreword (by Pastor Mark Jones)	1
Introduction	1
The Hierarchy	2
The Papacy	5
Idolatry	6
Mary	6
The Mass	7
Salvation	9
Assurance	10
Purgatory	11
Tradition	12
The Great Whore	12
Conclusion	14

With the above as a preface, we do encourage all sincere Catholics to read this handbook in its entirety. I can assure you that this document will overtly expose profound doctrinal issues practiced and taught within the Catholic Church. Some of these teachings you may have already questioned yourself but, like many others, you may not have had a good resource to validate your questions.

Our sincere prayer is that you gain enough insight from this handbook that you have a “salvation experience” (get saved) by the grace of Jesus Christ by faith. If you do experience biblical saving faith as you read this work, please call us so that we can celebrate your salvation with you. If you need further clarification, need a bible study, or need further discipleship, please feel free to call us anytime. The number you can call to get help is (512) 538-4418.

For all others, this handbook was written for believers who have a genuine burden for the Catholic community and need a resource to teach, coach, and persuade. Many of us have family members or friends who are sincere Catholics and would love to have a biblical resource (like this handbook) to employ when God’s truths can be shared freely and lovingly. You are the reason the author of this handbook spent the untold hours compiling this biblical resource. Please feel free to print this booklet and keep it with you to utilize during those “special sharing moments.”

FOREWORD

If you are a Catholic and are now reading this document for the first time, please know that we love you very dearly and we care for your soul with all of our heart! As a principle, we do not condemn or attack Catholic people (or anyone else) as we genuinely love and care for all mankind, especially those of the Catholic Church. However, we do have a “spiritual and loving obligation” to point out, and clarify, the erroneous “doctrines” of the Catholic Church itself. And, because heaven and hell (for an eternity) are at stake, it is of utmost importance that you (as a Catholic) get clarification, in concise biblical terms, regarding the myriad doctrinal issues that erode your biblical chances of obtaining true salvation through Jesus Christ.



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to equip Christians with the Biblical tools necessary to engage with and witness to Roman Catholics. The contents of this handbook are not exhaustive, but serve as a reference for those seeking to defend their Biblical faith against several of the common heresies in Catholic teaching.

Ecclesiastes 8:4 ~ Where the word of a king is, there is power

God commands that a Christian study the contents of the Bible.

2 Tim 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

The only truth a Christian ought to concern himself with is the Bible.

John 17:17

“...thy word is truth.”

Furthermore, a Christian must understand how to deal with false teachers of heresies.

Col 4:6

“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

As indicated in the verse above, and in the following, we must have a heart for edifying others and bringing them to the knowledge of the truth. We ought to be compassionate towards Roman Catholics who are, for the most part, ignorant of the anti-Biblical teachings of their church.

Eph 4:29

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

However, we also realize that the Bible is an offensive weapon (Eph 6:17) and that standing on the truth makes quick enemies with those who do not love the truth.

Gal 4:16

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”

The business of the Christian is not to attack individuals who are Catholic, per se. Understand, however, that the Catholic Church has officially condemned every Bible-believing Christian with hundreds of anathemas and damnations. Rather, the objective should be to expose the lies of their church with the truths of the Bible. The goal is ultimately to bring the Catholic with whom you are speaking to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you have the opportunity to speak personally with a Catholic, make clear the rules of the discussion: only the Bible will be used to support or reject a given position.

Acts 17:11

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the

word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

This exercise may be foreign to the average Catholic, as his church places popes, other hierarchy members, decrees, councils, encyclicals, ex cathedra teachings, etc., alongside the Bible and has historically either banned or, when banning was not possible, discouraged the reading of the Bible.

Sometimes, dealing with heretics can be very frustrating. Seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance and peace so as not to bring reproach to our Savior’s name by overreacting or losing your temper. If someone refuses to heed Biblical wisdom and has established an impenetrable wall of willful ignorance, pray for him and consider:

1 Cor 14:38

“But if a man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.”

My prayer is that this resource will prove beneficial in your personal evangelistic work. Even more so, I pray that you lead many Roman Catholics, who the devil has mercilessly ensnared in the darkness of their church, to become born-again, saved, Bible-believing Christians.

THE HIERARCHY

The life of the Roman Catholic Church thrives on a clearly delineated, powerful, and far-reaching hierarchy. This section will address several rules or aspects of this hierarchy. The epicenter of the hierarchy, the Pope, is covered in the next section.

On the Very Notion of a Religious Hierarchy

Rev 2:6

“But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

Rev 2:15

“So hast thou also them that hold to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”

God hates the practice of Nicolaitanism.

Nico – to rule over, to conquer

Laity – common folk, masses

Stated another way, God hates the practice of a rigid religious hierarchy that exercises lordship over its

Ecclesiastes 8:4 ~ Where the word of a king is, there is power

laypeople. The Roman Catholic Church has practiced such a doctrine for centuries.

On the Hierarchy's Authority in Interpreting Scripture

The Catholic Church has designated itself as the final authority on all matters of faith and practice. Regarding the Church's treatment of Scripture, only ranking officials can properly interpret it for the laity. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the aim of the church's liturgy (formal religious procedures) is to "initiate souls into the mystery of Christ (It is mystagogy)." Roman Catholicism is shrouded in mysticism which its hierarchy claims the sole ability to discern properly.

First of all, Christ and the salvation He offers are simple and non-mysterious..

2 Cor 11:3
"...the simplicity that is in Christ."

2 Pet 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Acts 16:31 "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."

Second, the Bible needs no human to interpret it.

2 Pet 1:20
"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

Daniel 2:22
"He revealeth the deep and secret things..." (see also *Dan 2:21-24, 28, 30*)

Luke 24:45
"Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,"

1 Cor 2:10
"But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

1 Cor 2:13,14
"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto

him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

John 16:13

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth...and he will shew you things to come."

On Mandated Celibacy

In order to obtain ordination into the Catholic hierarchy, priests and nuns must swear a vow of celibacy.

The Bible on compulsory celibacy.

1 Tim 4:1-3

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils...forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats..."
(Notice also God's commentary on the Roman Catholic observance of not eating meat on Fridays)

The Bible's requirements, among others, for Church leadership.

1 Tim 3

"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife...One that ruleth well his own house...Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well."

On the Titles of Father, Priest, and Saint

Roman Catholic clergy are referred to as Fathers or Priests. Special Catholics, who have done exceptional work for the Church, can qualify as Saints after their death and are granted this title by a consensus of top-ranking clergymen.

The Bible teaches that no one other than God in heaven may take the title Father in a spiritual sense.

Matt 23:9

"And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father which is in heaven."

John 17:11

"Holy Father, keep through thine own name..."

The Bible also teaches that all born-again believers are priests and saints. (Note: these verses are a mere sampling of literally hundreds of verses addressed to the living ‘saints’ of Jesus Christ.)

1 Pet 2:9

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”

1 Cor 6:2

“Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?”

Matt 27:52

“And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose.”

Rom 1:7

“To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:...”

Acts 26:10

“Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison...”

1 Cor 14:33

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”

Eph 1:1

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus...”

On the Hierarchy’s Mediation Between God and Man

Roman Catholicism teaches that one must go through some form of intermediary to contact God, whether it be their religious leaders, Mary, or any number of saints, each of whom are said to have special powers. In many cases, Catholics must pray directly to a particular saint for blessings, forgiveness, or protection. Furthermore, the hierarchy is given the authority to forgive sins on God’s behalf.

The Bible teaches that any saved Christian, a true son of God, may go directly to God Himself through Jesus Christ, for both prayer and forgiveness of sins.

Regarding forgiveness.

Ezra 10:11

“Make confession unto the Lord God.”

Psalm 32:5

“I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.”

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 2:1

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”

Regarding contacting God.

Matt 11:28

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heaven laden, and I will give you rest.”

John 14:6

“...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

1 Tim 2:5,6

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all...”

Heb 4:14-16

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Eph 3:11,12

“According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.”

Rom 8:23

“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”

Heb 7:25

“Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Many Catholics will try to use the following scripture to justify confession to a priest.

James 5:16

“Confess your faults one to another...”

Faults are not sins. And, even if they were, this verse would demand that the priest being confessed to share his sins with the confessor.

Truly, the Roman Catholic anti-Biblical notion of prayer is an abomination to God.

Prov 28:9

“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination.”

THE PAPACY

The head of the Roman Catholic Church is the Pope. He is known as the Vicar of Christ (pronounced vik'-er; derived from word vicarious), or, Christ's living representative here on earth. The Pope is also said to be infallible; he is unable to teach an error either in faith or morals. The Catholic Church also takes the position that the Apostle Peter was the first Pope. This section will cover the notion of infallibility, the identification of 'the rock' upon which Christ's church was built, and an examination of Peter's eligibility as Pope.

On Infallibility

No human being, regardless of age, title, education, or rank is infallible in any sense of the word. It is not possible to achieve perfection in the flesh.

Rom 3:10-12

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one...there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

Rom 3:23

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

Psalms 39:5

“...verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity.”

Isaiah 64:6

“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

On the Church's Foundation upon "The Rock"

Catholics believe the Church was built upon Peter as the first Pope and use the following verse to justify their position.

Matt 16:18

“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.”

Was Jesus referring to Peter or to Himself as the rock? The Bible enlightens.

Psalms 18:31

“For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God?”

Acts 4:10-12

“...Jesus Christ of Nazareth...This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other...”

1 Cor 3:11

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

1 Cor 10:4

“And did all drink of the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

1 Pet 2:16

“...Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.”

Catholics also claim that the phrase 'gates of hell' actually means 'powers of hell' which cannot prevail over the Roman Catholic Church. How

exactly they assume this meaning is unknown. If we take *Matthew 16:18* as is, the gates of hell literally mean the gates to which Jesus holds the keys (*Rev 1:18*). In fact, Jesus as the Rock in *Matthew 16:18* is made even more clear when one realizes that Christ Himself descended into hell after dying on the Cross (*Eph 4:9,10*) and then broke out after three days (*Acts 2:27*) to walk again on earth, then ascended into heaven. Truly, the gates of hell did not prevail against it – The Rock, Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, if the language of *Matthew 16:18* seems confusing, one should note the similar syntax in the following verse.

John 2:19-21
“Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days will I raise it up...But he spake of the temple of his body.”

Clearly,

Deut 32:31-33
“For their rock is not as our Rock...”

On Peter’s Credentials as Pope

If Peter were actually the first Pope, he does not fulfill the Catholic criteria to hold such an office, nor is he a worthy foundation.

- He was never in Rome (not mentioned in any of Paul’s salutations in *Rom 16*)
- He was at one point preaching false doctrine and needed correction from Paul (*Gal 2:9-21*)
- Jesus calls him satan shortly after he was ‘ordained Pope’ (*Matt 16:22,23*)
- He described himself as a man deserving no special attention or recognition (*Acts 10:25,26*)
- He denied Christ three times (*Matt 26:34*)
- He was married (*Matt 18:14; 1 Cor 9:5*)
- He sunk in the water because of his lack of faith (*Matt 14:30*)
- He resisted Jesus’ attempt to wash his feet (*John 13:8*)
- He was quick to shed blood (*John 18:10*)

- He fell asleep while keeping guard for Jesus (*Matt 26:40; Mark 14:37*)

IDOLATRY

Idolatry is observable everywhere in Roman Catholicism. However, Catholics will typically evade the accusation of idolatry, instead calling their thousands of figurines, statues, tokens, relics, etc., the euphemism ‘aids to worship’. Even if it were true that Catholic idols were ‘aids to worship’ only, this would not disqualify them as idols. Anything that comes between the true God and man or detracts from the sufficiency of God’s grace alone is an idol.

2 Cor 12:9
“...My grace is sufficient for thee...”

An average Catholic is ignorant of his church’s practice of idolatry, or at least has no convictions about it. This is because Catholic ‘Bibles’ have deleted the 2nd Commandment in *Exodus 20*, which condemns idol worship. The 10th Commandment in *Exodus 20:17* condemning the sin of covetousness is then split into two in order to maintain the total count of ten commandments.

Regardless of the Catholic Church’s attempts at perverting God’s word in order to cover their own sins, the Bible is replete with the condemnation of idolatry.

In the Old Testament.

Ex 20:4-6, 34:13-14; Lev 19:4; Deut 5:8-9, 16:22, 27:15; Judges 10:13-14; 1 Kings 14:9; Psalm 115:4-9; Isaiah 44:8-20, 46:6-7; Jer 10:3-16

And in the New Testament.

Acts 7:39-42, 17:16, 29; Rom 1:22-24; 1 Cor 6:9, 10:7,14; 1 Peter 4:2; 1 John 5:21; Rev 2:14, 9:20, 21:8, 22:15

MARY

The Roman Catholic Church places a tremendous, even idolatrous (and blasphemous) emphasis on Mary. She holds the titles of ‘holy’, ‘Mother of God’, ‘Mother of the Church’, ‘Queen of Heaven’, and ‘Queen of the World’. She is portrayed in thousands of icons all over the world, to which millions of Catholics make pilgrimage every day. In the

Pope's Holy Father's (referring to himself) Prayer for the Marian Year in 1987, Mary is even called upon to obtain for all humanity the grace of salvation.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains: "Taken up to heaven [Mary] did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation...Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix."

Furthermore, the Roman Catholic Church claims that Mary was perpetually sinless and was an eternal virgin. The official position could be summarized as follows: 'He (Christ) came to us through her, so we must go to Him through her'.

On Mary's Prominence in the Bible

The Bible does not place Mary at nearly the same level that Catholicism does. In this verse, Jesus gives her no special attention or veneration of any kind. In fact, of all the times Jesus is recorded speaking to Mary, He refers to her simply as 'woman'.

Matt 12:46-50

"While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Jesus also corrects the effort of others to elevate Mary too high.

Luke 11:27-28

"And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

Furthermore, Mary could not have been sinless, evidenced by the fact that she was human, and even offers a sacrifice for the remission of her personal sins according to Jewish law in *Luke 2:24*.

Mary was certainly not a perpetual virgin because she had other children after Jesus.

Matt 12:46, 13:55-56; Mark 3:31, 6:3; Luke 8:19; John 2:12, 7:5; Gal 1:19; Psalm 69:8

Mary also refers to Jesus Christ as her Savior in *Luke 1:47*.

In actuality, the only 'Queen of Heaven' in the Bible is one who led the children of Israel to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication.

Jer 44:19, 23; Rev 2:20-22

On Praying the Rosary

Many Catholics pray hundreds and even thousands of 'rosaries' to pay for sins, earn spiritual benefits, meditate on certain 'mysteries', etc. These repetitive and liturgical incantations call upon the "Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope" to pray to Christ on the individual Catholic's behalf.

The Bible's opinion on this manner of prayer is clear.

Matt 6:7

"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."

On Mary's Influence in Biblical Christianity

In addition to being chosen by God as the vessel from whom His Son would be born, Mary's single commandment is one we would all do well to heed.

John 2:5

"His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

THE MASS

The Roman Catholic mass is a supposed re-sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, through which sins are remitted by the supposed literal body and blood of Jesus Himself. This ritual is repeated an indefinite number of times, both for the living and dead in 'purgatory'. Several sources of Catholic literature explain the mass best.

The Pocket Catholic Dictionary

- “The mass is a truly propitiary sacrifice” by which “the Lord is appeased, He grants grace...and He pardons wrongdoings and sins, even grave ones.”
- “Finally, the mass is the divinely ordained means of applying the merits of Calvary. Christ won for the world all the graces it needs for salvation and sanctification. But, these blessings are conferred gradually and continually since Calvary and mainly through the mass...”
- In the mass, Christ “offers Himself...as really as he did on Calvary.”

The Council of Trent

- “...regarding the great mystery of the Eucharist...it is the true and only sacrifice.”
- “If anyone shall deny that the body and blood together with the soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore the entire Christ, are not truly, really, and substantially contained in the sacrament of the most Holy Eucharist, let him be anathema.”
- The mass is “a sacrifice of expiation...of sins and the punishment for sins...not merely for the living, but also for the poor souls in purgatory.”

Vatican II

- “For in the sacrifice of the mass our Lord is immolated [killed as an offer of sacrifice]...the mass is...a sacrifice in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated.”
- “For it is the liturgy through which, especially in the divine sacrifice of the Eucharist, that the work of our redemption is accomplished.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

- “As sacrifice, the Eucharist is also offered in reparation for the sins of the living and the dead and to obtain spiritual or temporal benefits from God.”

On the Literal Body and Blood of Jesus Christ

The Catholic Church uses the accounts of the Last Supper as proof texts for claiming that the bread and wine of the mass change to the literal body and

blood of Christ through a process known as ‘transubstantiation’. (*Matt 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20*; see also *John 6:54-56*).

It is neither rational nor Biblical to suggest that Jesus was referring to His literal body and blood at the Last Supper. It is figurative, as is the case when Christ calls Himself the door, the light, or the good shepherd. It is also figurative when Jesus calls His disciples sheep or when He tells us to eat His Word. And, we certainly are not to beware of leaven as a mere baking ingredient.

Note in particular *Mark 14:22* where Jesus *breaks* the bread. Is a Catholic to suggest that Jesus literally ripped his body in two, and then into little pieces for all to eat?

In the context of *John 6:54-56*, Jesus explains that His parable of eating His flesh and drinking His blood is figurative (*John 6:57*) and that the consumption of flesh profits nothing at all (*John 6:63*)

New Testament doctrine is explicit in the figurative nature of the Lord’s Supper and that it is not done as a ‘perpetual re-sacrifice’. Its true purpose rather is for the Christian to remember what Jesus did for us on the Cross of Calvary while looking forward to His glorious return.

1 Cor 10:16

“The cup of blessing which we bless, it is not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”

1 Cor 11:26

“For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.”

Even if a Catholic were consuming the literal blood of Christ, he is forbidden from consuming blood before the Law (*Gen 9:4*), under the Law (*Lev 17:10*), and after the Law (*Acts 15:29*).

A Catholic may rebut the matter of consuming blood by stating that the mass perpetuates the sacrifice of the Cross in an ‘unbloody manner’. He is then, however, confronted with the following verse which makes any ‘unbloody sacrifice’ ineffective in the first place.

Heb 9:22

“For“...and without the shedding of blood is no remission.”

Ecclesiastes 8:4 ~ Where the word of a king is, there is power

A Catholic may even attempt to claim that the bread and wine do, in fact, literally change into Christ's body and blood, but are simply under the appearance of remaining bread and wine. This explanation is absurd. Is there such a miracle anywhere in the Bible? Did Jesus ever heal a man fully, but keep him under the appearance of remaining crippled?

On the Indefinite Repetition of the Mass

Christ's payment for sin needs no repeating of any sort.

Heb 10:10-18

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he has offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down at the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified...Now where the remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin."

1 Pet 3:18

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins..."

John 19:30

"...It is finished..."

Although contrary to official Roman Catholic doctrine, some Catholics may assert that the mass is not necessarily a repetition of the death of Christ, but rather simply a representation of or bringing to the present moment His death.

Such equivocation is not only meaningless, but also un-Biblical. If an event in the past had already achieved its purpose, there is no reason to do it over again. Take, for example, the relationship between a debtor, creditor, and benefactor. If a benefactor pays the creditor the money owed by the debtor, the debtor's debt is gone forever. It is meaningless to speak of 'presenting', 'reenacting', or 'perpetuating' the payment in the present. The debt was already paid in a transaction that was effectively and permanently completed in the past. Certainly, the debtor can remember with gratitude the payment made by the benefactor, but there is no longer any actual debt to be paid.

The bottom line is this: the Roman Catholic mass is an outright denial of the sufficiency of the sacrifice already paid by Jesus for us at Calvary.

SALVATION

The Roman Catholic Church asserts that faith, in addition to works, grants salvation. However, this salvation is only temporary. The Council of Trent states that "if anyone says that the sacraments of the New Law are not necessary for salvation...and that without them...men obtain from God through faith along the grace of justification...let him be anathema." The Catechism of the Catholic Church reiterates: "The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation". Only "through Christ's Catholic Church alone, which is the universal help towards salvation, [is] the fullness of the means of salvation [obtainable]" (Vatican II).

Even indulgences, famously protested by Martin Luther, are still used as an acceptable form of work today: "The Church...teaches and commands that the usage of indulgences – a usage most beneficial to Christians and approved by the authority of the sacred councils – should be kept in the Church, and it condemns with anathema those who say that indulgences are useless or that the Church does not have the power to grant them" (Vatican II). Furthermore, "if anyone shall say that the ungodly man is justified by faith only, let him be anathema" (Council of Trent).

Most Catholics will cite verses in the Book of James to justify this false doctrine of salvation by works. A Christian ought to direct him to *James 1:1*, which shows that this particular book was not addressed to saved Christians at all.

James 1:1

"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting."

Remember, all of the Bible is *for* us, but not all of the Bible is *to* us. We must rightly divide the Scripture and understand the context in which a verse is quoted. A text without a context creates a false pretext from which heresies abound.

The Bible is clear that salvation comes by grace through faith in Christ, plus nothing.

Eph 2:8,9

"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."

Ecclesiastes 8:4 ~ Where the word of a king is, there is power

Titus 3:5

“Not by the works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...”

Gal 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.”

Rom 3:28

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

Rom 5:1

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”

See also,

Luke 5:18-20, 7:50; John 3:15-18, 36, 5:24, 6:37, 40, 8:24, 11:24; Acts 10:43, 13:39, 48, 15:11, 16:31; Rom 3:20-28, 4:3, 5, 5:1; 1 Cor 1:21; Gal 2:16, 3:10, 11, 26; Eph 2:8, 9; 2 Tim 1:19; Titus 3:5

There is only one commandment we must observe, and eternity depends upon it.

1 John 3:23

“And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love another, and he gave us commandment.”

ASSURANCE

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that no man may know for certain his eternal destination. Additionally, the Church teaches that one's salvation, received from the works of the mass and other procedures, is only temporary and insecure.

The Bible teaches just the opposite: a man can know exactly where he will go when he dies and he can rest assured that his salvation is secured once he is saved.

On the Certainty of One's Eternal Destination

1 John 5:13

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...”

2 Cor 5:1

“For we know that is our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

2 Tim 1:12

“...For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

1 John 3:2,3

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

On the Eternal Security of One's Salvation

While a born-again Christian may lose fellowship with God through rebellion and neglect, he cannot lose his family affiliation once becoming a child of God (*John 1:12*). A rebellious Christian be equally sure that he will be chastised by God, lose rewards at the judgment seat of Christ, lose a millennial inheritance, and lose his joy, peace, health, and testimony. But, in terms of heaven or hell: once saved, always saved

John 6:37

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”

John 10:28,29

“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.”

Rom 8:35-39

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or

peril, or sword?...Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 Pet 1:5

“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Phil 1:6

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

Eph 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,”

Eph 4:30

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

2 Tim 1:12

“...For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

PURGATORY

For the Roman Catholic that has neither died in a state of grace nor committed a ‘mortal sin’ while living must first pass through Purgatory to gain access to heaven. Note the following quotes:

Vatican II

- “...in purgatory the souls of those who died in the charity of God and truly repentant for their sins and omissions are cleansed after death with punishments designed to purge away their debt.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

- “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned.”

The duration of time one must spend in Purgatory is unknown and the Roman Catholic Church does not claim to know. However, according the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “The Church commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken [by the living] on behalf of the dead.” Individuals must give money indefinitely on behalf of loved ones thought to be suffering in Purgatory, while the Church extorts unknown excesses of riches.

It is important to remember, however, that for those fortunate enough to be wearing the brown scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at the time of their death, they will be carried into heaven by the scapular’s namesake on the first Saturday after dying.

The doctrine of Purgatory is found nowhere in the Bible. The Catholic Church uses a group of uninspired books called the Apocrypha to justify it. Some Catholics may even try to use certain true Scripture taken out of context to prove Purgatory (e.g. *Matt 5:25-26; 1 Cor 3:13-15*)

It has already been explained from the Bible, in the section entitled ‘The Mass’, that Jesus Christ paid our sin debt on the Cross once and for all (*John 19:30; Heb 10:10-18; Rom 5:1-11; 1 Pet 3:18*). The Bible also teaches that there are only two destinations in eternity: heaven and hell. The following are just three examples where heaven and hell are juxtaposed in close proximity. Searching across Scripture, it is easy to see that born-again believers go straight to heaven upon their physical death, while unbelievers go straight to a terrible, fiery hell.

Luke 16:19-31 The Rich Man and Lazarus
“...And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom...”

John 3:18

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already...”

1 John 5:12

“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

TRADITION

Some Catholics may be honest with you and confess that their beliefs really are not Biblical at all, but that their Church’s *tradition* carries equal weight with Scripture. In fact, the Council of Trent, convening in 1546, declared Church tradition as equal authority to Scripture.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reinforces this belief: “As a result The Church...does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the Holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.”

A Catholic may use *2 Thessalonians 2:15* to justify his Church’s proper reliance on tradition. A Christian should challenge him to Biblically justify any of the past several traditions covered in this handbook.

On the Influence of Anti-Biblical Tradition

Matt 15:3

“But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?”

Matt 15:6

“...Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.”

Mark 7:8,9

“For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men...And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

Mark 7:13

“Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition...”

Col 2:8

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

On Adding to Scripture

Roman Catholicism has added tradition, along with the Apocryphal Books and church interpretations, to the Bible.

Deut 4:2

“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

Deut 12:32

“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”

Prov 30:6

“Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

Rev 22:18

“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:”

The Bible alone is sufficient for all of our needs.

2 Tim 3:16,17

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

THE GREAT WHORE

The 17th and 18th Chapters of the Book of Revelation describe a ‘Great Whore’ who represents a global, religious-political system that aids in the ascendance and reign of the Antichrist. For her sins, she faces grave judgment from God. For centuries, Bible-believers have identified the Roman Catholic Church as the Great Whore because of its uncanny identification with the whore’s characteristics. The following is a list of these:

The Great Whore Has Fornicated With the Kings of the Earth

In addition to being a religious institution, the Roman Catholic Church is also a political entity called the Vatican, headquartered in Rome and recognized by the United Nations as an independent state. The Vatican has clerical ambassadors in nearly every country in the world. The Pope is granted an audience with any head-of-state at his own pleasure while the media covers every moment. The Pope is arguably the most powerful and visible political leader in the world.

Historically, the Papacy has claimed divine power to both set up and depose kings, leaders, and governments at will. The height of this power being actively exercised is now known as the Dark Ages, a period in European history spanning centuries where the Pope ruled with an iron (and bloody) fist. All who would not submit to the Pope's rule were either killed or, at best, suppressed.

The character of the Vatican's political arm may have changed, but the nature has remained the same. During World War II, the Roman Catholic Church signed Concordats with both Mussolini and Hitler, initiating mutual moral and financial support for the Fascist cause. Since then, the Pope has regularly brokered agreements with world leaders in an effort to expand his power and influence, including American Presidents.

Aside from political subterfuge, the Vatican has used outright warfare and bloodshed to fulfill its ends. The Crusades, religious wars in Europe, and the colonization and conquering of new territory all over the globe are just a few examples. Wars initiated, supplied, or supported by the Roman Catholic Church have always been in the name of God, with the intent to "ceaselessly and efficaciously [seek] for the return of all humanity and all its goods under Christ" (Vatican II). Christ in this case means the Mother Church, of course.

The Vatican's whoredom is not limited to just politics and warfare, either. The Church also seeks to unify all world religions under Rome's authority. This cannot only be seen in the way it adapts to varying religions and adopts their practices in different cultures all over the world, but is most pronounced in the example of the Conference in Assisi, Italy in October of 1986. At this conference, religious leaders were called in from around the world, while the Pope declared that they were all in reality praying to the same God.

Not only is this endstate of global hegemony one only Jesus Christ can achieve (*Phil 2:9-11*), but the very principle of establishing a world-wide kingdom here on earth (called 'post-millennialism') is anti-Biblical.

Gen 11:4-8

"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth...And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one...So the LORD scattered them abroad..."

John 18:36

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight..."

1 Cor 15:50

"Now I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God..."

2 Cor 10:4

"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal..."

Eph 6:12

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

The Great Whore Wears Scarlet, Purple, Gold, and Precious Stones

The opulence of the Roman Catholic Church is obvious to any observer.

Furthermore, scarlet and purple are the official colors of Roman Catholic Cardinals and Bishops, respectively.

The Great Whore Carries a Golden Cup Full of Abominations

The golden chalice, used in the mass, is one of the holiest instruments in Roman Catholicism. As discussed in the section of this handbook entitled 'The Mass', the repeated and literal sacrificial death of Christ over and over is the abomination that fills this cup.

The Great Whore is Named 'Mystery, Babylon the Great'

The Catholic Church describes its own liturgy as mystagogy, full of superstitions, rituals, and magic.

Additionally, like Babel (from which the term Babylon is derived) in Genesis Chapter 11, The Roman Catholic Church seeks to put all governments and people under its religious and civil authority. In a recent meeting with President Obama, Pope Benedict XVI called for a "true world political authority", further articulated in his new encyclical entitled 'Charity in Truth'.

The Great Whore is Named 'Mother of Harlots'

The widespread fornication of Catholic clergy is famous. Most recently, the Roman Catholic Church has been exposed in protecting thousands of clergymen known to be pedophiles and child molesters. Most of these cases have been and are being settled outside of court in multi-million dollar lawsuits.

Historically, however, the sexual promiscuity of celibate priests and Popes is even more extensive. In fact, many Popes fathered succeeding Popes. Also, clergy were permitted to keep concubines, so long as they paid their indulgences.

The Great Whore Sits Upon Seven Hills

Rome is universally recognized as the 'City on Seven Hills.'

The Great Whore is Drunk with the Blood of Saints and Martyrs of Jesus

For literally centuries, the Roman Catholic Church has murdered and committed genocide against millions and millions of Bible-believing Christians who were unwilling to submit to the Pope's rule. Many of the lives of these brave Christians are chronicled in Foxe's Book of Martyrs which, not surprisingly, is banned by the Catholic Church.

For a shocking account of the Inquisition and the methods of torture used by Catholic clergy to compel submission, visit:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rx8PdV0ELvY&feature=channel_page

CONCLUSION

One should never simply expose someone's belief in a lie without also showing him the truth. Remember, the Word of God is a sword that is *two-edged* not *one-edged* (*Heb 4:12*).

That being said, ensure you always communicate a clear gospel presentation and show how to be saved from the Bible.

- He is a sinner – *Romans 3:10, 23*
- Sin has a price – *Romans 5:12, 6:23*
- Jesus paid this price – *Romans 5:8*
- He needs to receive this gift by asking God to be saved – *Romans 10:9, 10, 13*

If you lead a Catholic to the Lord, he may be resistant to leave his Church for a variety of powerful social and familial pressures. If this is the case, show him the following verses, and pray that the Holy Spirit of God, which abides in him, lead him out of Catholicism:

1 Cor 10:21

"Ye cannot drink of the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table and of the table of devils."

2 Cor 6:14-18

"Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?...Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

Rev 18:4

"...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Eph 5:6-11

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers

with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:...And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness..."



AMEN