

Grace Equip Ministries
Elective: Reaching Catholics with the True Gospel
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Winter 2021

Course Description

This course is designed to expose the student to the various theological differences between the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church. The course is designed to understand the essential differences and speak to those differences with love and knowledge.

Course Objectives

- A. To enrich and improve the student's personal life and relationship with Christ
- B. To help the student view all of life as an opportunity to glorify the Lord through the explanation of the true Christian doctrine of salvation.
- C. To increase the students understanding of the differences between the Roman Church and Biblical Christianity.
- D. To encourage the student to reach out to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers who may be in the Roman Catholic Church.
- E. To challenge the student to study the Word of God more deeply so they are accurate in their understanding of what they believe.
- F. To provide an environment where students can bring their questions regarding the Roman Catholic Church.
- G. To provide an environment where students can bring their questions regarding the how to witness to those in the Roman Catholic Church.
- H. To equip the student to be a more astute theologian and Bible student.
- I. To encourage the student to go further in their own personal study about the history of the church.

Course Requirements

- A. Reading assignments: *The Gospel According to Rome*. Read Chapters 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12. Do a reading report on these chapters of 2-3 pages.
- B. Memorize: Titus 3:5
- C. Write a 2-3 page paper on how you would witness to a Roman Catholic

I. The System

A. HISTORY

1). First two hundred years of church history

- apostles and their early disciples
- preaching the word
- persecution

2.) In 313 AD after nearly three centuries of persecution the Roman Empire was changing. Constantine became emperor

- society as a whole was decadent - immoral
- the system really inaugurated when Constantine (Roman Emperor) supposedly converted to Christianity in 337 AD.
- mass baptisms took place with no true repentance
- pagan temples were converted into Roman Catholic cathedrals
- Faith as a way of salvation was corrupted into following pagan rights and rituals.

3.) Most non-Catholic historians would say that the Roman Catholic Church was truly established in 590 AD under Gregory I.

- system that is comprised of a mixture of truth and error
- system itself nullifies and distorts Biblical truth by adding erroneous man-made teachings that contradict even the Roman Catholic Douay version of the Bible
- the Council of Trent (1546) declared that church tradition was of equal authority with the Word of God

4.) Different kinds of Catholics: This was borrowed.

There are six kinds of Catholics:

1. The Ultra Traditionalist Catholics who defend old time Catholicism (Latin Mass) and are critical of the changes that were brought about by Vatican II.
2. Traditionalist Catholics who are critical of liberalism and modernism within the church but have accepted the changes.
3. Liberal Catholics who see authority in human reason and not the Scriptures.
4. Charismatic/evangelical Catholics are more in line with the Protestant beliefs but emphasize the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
5. Cultural Catholics are the birth to death Catholics because they were baptized in a Catholic church but have no spiritual content whatsoever.
6. Popular folk Catholics that reside mostly in Central and South America who have a range of beliefs that border on elements of animism.

II. Sacraments

Seven Sacraments

1. Baptism (infant)
 - John 9:1-12 used to show need for infant baptism
 - Thought to confer initial salvation
2. Penance
 - Thomas Aquinas said only the priest could hear confessions
 - 1439 the Armenian Decree made Thomas' views binding
 - Private confession to the priest was instituted
3. Eucharist
 - Takes place during the Mass
 - Doctrine of transubstantiation introduced in 1215 at the Fourth Lateran Council
 - Roman doctrine says that it is a true sacrifice of Jesus each time done
 - Final theology on transubstantiation formulated at Council of Trent in 1551
4. Confirmation
 - "Sacrament of Maturity"
 - Not defined until the Council of Trent in 1500s
5. Matrimony
 - Officially became a sacrament in 1536
6. Holy Orders
 - Became a sacrament under Pope Pius XII in 1947
7. Anointing of the Sick
 - Was known as Extreme Unction or Last Rites until recently
 - Mark 6:13 used as Biblical support
 - Innocent I in 416 said the anointing of the sick could be carried out by any believer

III. Salvation

Introduction

Acts 16:30-31

James 2:19

I. Means of Salvation

A. Indulgences

- Treasury of Merit
- Popes Discretion
- Two kinds of indulgences
 - (1) Plenary
 - (2) Partial
- Biblical basis

B. Purgatory

- Reason – not enough merit/grace
- 2 Maccabees 12:38-45
- 1 Cor. 3:15
- Definition
- Various Scriptures to refute Purgatory

C. Salvation

- Col. 2:13
- John 5:24
- John 10:27-29
- One time act of God
- 2 Cor. 5:17-21
- Phil. 2:12-13 Catholic interpret incorrectly
- Lack of assurance in the Roman Catholic Church

IV. Saints/Mary

A. Protestant Saints

B. Monotheism vs. Polytheism

- Veneration

C. Martyrs to Monastics

- Nicene Age
- Chrysostom

D. Mary

Why don't Protestants pray to Mary

(1) God does not direct us anywhere in His Word to do so.

- (2) There is no evidence any believer in heaven is able to hear the prayers of those on earth.
- (3) The apostles never taught their followers to pray to Mary.
- (4) We do not see prayers to the dead.

E. Things taught about Mary by the Roman Catholic Church

1. Immaculate Conception

- Defined 1854
- Ineffabilis Deus – Pope Pius IX
- Rom. 5:12, 19
- Luke 1:47
- Rev. 15:3-4

2. Perpetual Virginity

- No pain in child birth
- Thomas Aquinas
- Origen
- 1 Tim. 4:1-4
- Brothers & sister
- Matt. 1:25
- Matt. 13:55-56
- Luke 2:7
- John 2:12, 7:15
- Acts 1:14
- Gal. 1:19, 2:9-12
- Psalm 69:8
- John 7:3-5

3. Veneration of Mary

- Rosary
- Hail Mary

4. Co-redemtrix/Co-mediatrix

- Second Vatican Council
- Pope Leo XIII
- Alphonsus Ligouri
- 1 Tim. 2:5
- Isa. 43:11
- Titus 2:13-14

- John 14:6
5. Assumption of Mary
 - Pope Pius XII
 - Dec. 1950
 - 377 AD
 - Gregory of Tour 590 AD
 6. Apparitions of Mary
 - Deut. 18:11

V. Structure

Popes/Cardinals/Bishops/Priests/Monks

1. Pope
 - Bishops
 - Vicar
 - Headship of the church Col. 1:18, Eph. 1:22, Col. 2:9-10
 - Titles
2. Creation of the papacy
 - Peter
 - First Vatican Council
3. Papal Infallibility
 - First Vatican Council
 - Faith & Morals
 - “Ex-Cathedra”
4. History of the Popes
 - Pope Liberius (352-366)
 - Pope Vigilius (537-555)
 - Pope Honorius (625-638)
 - Paul V (1605-1621) and Urban VIII (1623-1644)
 - Irenaeus (130-200)
5. Papal Decrees

- Innocent III (1198-1216)
- Innocent IV (1241-1254)
- Nicolas V (1447-1455)
- Sixtus IV (1471-1484)
- Leo X (1513-1521)
- Clement XI (1700-1721)
- Pius XI (1846-1878)
- Leo XIII (1878-1903)

6. Is the RCC Correct in Declaring Peter the first Pope?

- Matthew 16:13-19
- Luke 22:32
- 1 Peter 5:1-5
- Gal. 2:11-14
- Married man
- 2 Cor. 12:11
- Romans 16

Roman Catholic Church Dates

Prayers for the dead	300 AD
Making the sign of the cross	300 AD
Wax candles	320 AD
Veneration of angels and dead saints	375 AD
Use of images in worship	375 AD
The Mass as a daily celebration	394 AD
Beginning of the exaltation of Mary; the term, “Mother of God” applied at Council of Ephesus	431 AD
Extreme Unction (Last Rites)	526 AD
Doctrine of Purgatory - Gregory I	593 AD
Prayers to Mary and dead saints	600 AD
Title of “Pope” first given to Boniface	609AD

Temporal powers of Pope conferred by Pepin, King of France	750AD
Worship of cross, images and relics	786 AD
Holy Water blessed by priest	850 AD
Canonization of dead saints	995 AD
Fastings on Fridays & during Lent	998 AD
College of Cardinals established by Leo IX	1058 AD
Celibacy of priesthood	1079 AD
The Rosary – praying	1090 AD
Sale of Indulgences	1190 AD
Transubstantiation - Innocent III	1215 AD
Confession of sins to a priest – Innocent III	1215 AD
Adoration of the wafer (Host)	1220 AD
Bible forbidden to Layman & place in index of forbidden books	1229 AD
Cup forbidden to the people at communion	1414 AD
Purgatory proclaimed as a dogma	1439 AD
The doctrine of the Seven Sacraments confirmed	1439 AD
The Hail Mary invented & completed 50 yrs later	1508 AD
Tradition declared as equal authority with Bible by Council of Trent	1545 AD
Apocryphal books added to Bible	1546 AD
Immaculate Conception of Mary	1854 AD
Infallibility of the pope in matters of faith and morals, proclaimed by the Vatican Council	1870 AD
Assumption of the Virgin Mary (bodily ascension into heaven shortly after her death)	1950 AD
Mary proclaimed Mother of the Church	1965 AD