

Examining Popular Doctrines

Catholicism

CATHOLIC STANDARD OF AUTHORITY

- *In addition to the Bible, Catholicism also follows tradition and the decrees of the Pope and church councils as religious authority*
- "Did God intend that the Bible alone should be the guide to salvation? No, because certain things in the Bible can be misunderstood, and because the Bible does not have everything God taught" - *Catechism*, p. 51

CATHOLIC STANDARD OF AUTHORITY

- "Do we get from the Bible alone all our knowledge and certainty about what God has told us? No, there is also Sacred Tradition ... What is tradition? The Word of God handed on to us by the Apostles in their preaching and by their successors in the church to the present day ... Do you have to believe in tradition? Yes ... we are obliged to accept all the truths contained in the Bible and Tradition..." - *Catechism*, pp. 9,10

CATHOLIC STANDARD OF AUTHORITY

- "Does Jesus require us to follow the Pope in matters of religion? Yes, because obedience and loyalty to the Pope are among the chief requirements of Our Lord's plan for unity ... Can the Pope make an error when teaching religion? Not when he is speaking solemnly (ex cathedra) as head of the church. Then he has that special protection from error which God gives as a spiritual safeguard for all the members of the church" - *Catechism*, p. 56

THE BIBLE: STANDARD OF AUTHORITY

- The Apostles received and declared the whole truth
 - John 16:13 – The Holy Spirit will speak through the Apostles and guide them into *ALL* truth
 - Acts 20:27 – Paul declared the *WHOLE* purpose of God
 - 2 Pet 1:3 – *EVERYTHING* pertaining to life and godliness
- The teachings of the Apostles can be understood by all people
 - 2 Tim 3:16-17 – All scripture is profitable for *EVERYTHING*

THE BIBLE: STANDARD OF AUTHORITY

- The teachings of the Apostles can be understood by all people
 - Acts 17:11 – Searched the scriptures to *UNDERSTAND*
 - John 20:30-31 – These have been written so we would *BELIEVE*
- We are not to follow any other doctrine than Christ's
 - Col 2:8 – Stay away from *TRADITIONS*/doctrines of men
 - Gal 1:6-9 – If ones preaches *DIFFERENT* gospel....Let him be accursed
 - 2 Jn 1:9-11 – One who goes too far and *DOES NOT ABIDE* in the teaching of Christ...

CATHOLIC CHURCH ORGANIZATION

- *Catholicism teaches that the Pope is the earthly head of the church*
- "The Pope, who is the bishop of Rome and the Vicar of Christ on earth ... is the visible head of the whole Catholic Church ... Who was the first Pope? St. Peter, who was made Pope by Jesus Christ Himself ... Did Peter's authority die with him? No, it was handed down to a man named Linus, and after he died, it was handed down to another, and so on, during the past 2000 years"- *Catechism*, pp. 55,56. Below the Pope in the church hierarchy are various levels of cardinals, bishops, priests, etc

CATHOLIC CHURCH ORGANIZATION

- "The law of the [Roman] Church forbids persons living in the married state to be ordained, and persons in holy orders [priests, etc.], to marry" - *Catholic Dictionary*, p. 132

THE BIBLE: CHURCH ORGANIZATION

- Jesus is the Head and Foundation of the church
 - Eph 1:22-23, Col 1:18 – *CHRIST IS HEAD* of the church
 - 1 Cor 3:11 – No man can lay a *FOUNDATION* except Christ
 - Matt 16:13-19 – The “*ROCK*” which Christ built His church is the truth that Jesus is the Son of God, not *PETER!*
 - What is Peter doing in this context? *Confessing and exalting Christ*
 - Rom 7:1-3 – The concept of two heads is like an adulteress marriage

THE BIBLE: CHURCH ORGANIZATION

- Peter had no greater authority than the other Apostles
 - Matt 16:19 – The Apostles had power to bind and loose by preaching the gospel **GUIDED** by the **HOLY SPIRIT** Jn 16:13
 - Peter had the “keys” to preach the gospel first to the Jews and then the Gentiles (Acts 2 and 10)
 - Paul labored more then all of them – 1 Cor 15:10
 - Peter did not fit the pattern of modern Popes. He was married – Matt 8:14; 1 Cor 9:5

THE BIBLE: CHURCH ORGANIZATION

- Peter did not fit the pattern of modern Popes
 - He was married – Matt 8:14; 1 Cor 9:5
- Who can be a successor to Peter or to any other Apostle?
 - Had to be chosen by Jesus – Matt 4; Acts 1, 9
 - Had to be an eyewitness of the resurrection – Acts 1:21-22
 - Sign of a true Apostle – 2 Cor 12:12
- Marriage is honorable for all, including Apostles and Bishops
 - Tit 1:5-7, 1 Cor 9:5

CATHOLIC COMMUNION

- *Catholicism teaches that the elements in communion become the literal flesh and blood of Jesus*
- "The Holy Eucharist is the Sacrament in which Jesus Christ is really and physically present under the appearances of bread and wine ... The appearances of the bread and wine (taste, smell, color, size, shape, weight) did not change, even though the bread and wine were actually changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. The substance of the bread and wine are changed into the substance of the body and blood of Jesus. This change is called transubstantiation

CATHOLIC COMMUNION

- "When does the priest change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus? At Mass, when he says, 'This is my Body. This is My Blood.' ...
- "What is the Mass? The sacrifice of the Cross, the sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, offered in an unbloody manner under the appearances of bread and wine ... Who offered the first Mass? Jesus offered the first Mass at the Last Supper when He changed the bread and wine into His Body and Blood ... Is the sacrifice of the Mass the same as the sacrifice of the cross? Yes, they are the same..."
- *Catechism*, pp. 69-76

THE BIBLE: COMMUNION

- The Lords Supper, Communion, Memorial of Christ
 - Matt 26:29 – Jesus refers to the blood as “fruit of the vine”, not his actual blood
 - Changing bread and wine to flesh and blood would require a miracle. A miracle could always be verified by the physical evidence that the change had occurred. Jn 2:1-22 (example of miracle at Cana). Miracles have ceased 1 Cor 13:8-13

THE BIBLE: COMMUNION

- The Lords Supper, Communion, Memorial of Christ
 - Acts 15:29 – Drinking blood is forbidden
 - Jesus could not have offered a sacrifice for the first “Mass” at the last supper since He wasn’t a priest under the old law – Heb 7-10
 - Jesus’ sacrifice was not repeated, so the mass cannot be the same sacrifice offered today – Heb 7-10, 1 Pet 3:18
 - A memorial is used to remind us of another thing or person. The memorial is never physically and literally the thing it reminds us of – 1 Cor 11:24-25