

# Roman Catholicism Today

- Less than 17.7% of the entire world population is RC
- This is a total 928 Million people, soon to be a Billion!
- They have parishes in virtually every part of the world
- They are truly universal in scope:
  - Africa: 13.9% Catholics
  - North America : 24.2%
  - Central America: 86.6%
  - South America: 88.9%
  - Oceania: 26.5%
  - Asia: 2.7%



# What's the Difference?

## Authority

Catholics affirm a triad of authority: Scripture, apostolic tradition, & the teaching of the Church (Petrine doctrine, Apostolic Succession, Papal supremacy & infallibility)

Justification: salvation is possible thru baptism if back sliding occurs restoration is possible thru the sacrament of penance

Mariology: Immaculate, conception, assumption, Intercession

Sacramentalism & the Mass: baptism, confirmation, Eucharist. Penance, extreme unction(last rites), holy orders(priesthood ordination) & matrimony Purgatory

# Defining Evangelical

The term is derived from the Greek word *αξενγελιον...*  
Good News

This Good News is the the message of the Gospel!

Conviction that the Bible alone is God's *inerrant*  
revelation to man

2. Subscription to the creeds expressing the *Trinitarian* doctrine
3. Belief that the Reformation Confessions adequately convey  
The *soteriological* essence of the Gospel
4. Stress upon personal, dynamic, living commitment to  
Christ a strong eschatological perspective

# Is the Catholic Church a Christian Church?

- Harold O.J Brown of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School  
*“Reformation Protestantism acknowledges that Catholicism Possesses the fundamental articles of the faith, but claims That it so overlays with them with extraneous & sometimes Doctrines that the foundations are no longer accessible to the Majority of Catholic believers”*
- The Christian Research Institute  
*regards Roman Catholicism as neither a cult (non-Christian religious system) nor a biblical sound Church, but a historically Christian church which is in Desperate Need of biblical reform!*

## ***THE HOLY FATHER***

**The Roman Pontiff, as the successor of Peter, is the perpetual and visible principle and foundation of unity of both the bishops and of the faithful.**

***LUMEN GENTIUM, 23***



### **Matthew 16:18**

*And I tell you that you are **Peter** (**petros**), and on this **rock**(**petra**) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.“*

# Looking at the Context

## Who or What's the rock?

MT 16:13 *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"<sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."*

<sup>15</sup> *"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"*

<sup>16</sup> *Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

<sup>17</sup> *Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."*

- The inspired revelation given to Peter is the Foundation, the rock of the church!

- What is more, the same authority Jesus gave to Peter (Matt. 16:18) *is given later to all the apostles* (Matt. 18:18)

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*

*<sup>19</sup> "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."*

- Further, Scripture affirms that the church is *"built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone"* (Eph. 2:20)

# Problems with Papal Infallibility

- **The Problem of Heretical Popes.** Pope Honorius I (A.D. 625-638) was condemned by the Sixth General Council for teaching the monothelite heresy (that there was only one will in Christ)<sup>19</sup>
- An incredible situation of an infallible pope teaching a fallible, indeed *heretical*, doctrine
  
- **The Problem of the Antipopes**  
*The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* says "there have been about thirty-five antipopes in the history of the Church
- How can there be two infallible and opposing popes at the same time?

# The Problem of Galileo

Perhaps one of the greatest embarrassments to the "infallible" church is its fallible judgment about *Galileo Galilei* (A.D. 1564-1642), generally known as Galileo

- In opposition to Galileo and the Copernican solar-centric theory he adopted, the Catholic church sided with the scientifically outdated Ptolemaic geocentric universe.
- In A.D. 1616, the Copernican theory was condemned at Rome
- Galileo was summoned by the Inquisition in 1632, tried, and on June 21, 1633, pronounced "vehemently suspected of heresy."

- Eventually Pope Urban VIII allowed Galileo to return to his home in Florence, where he remained under house arrest until his death in 1642
- After the church had suffered many centuries of embarrassment for its condemnation of Galileo, on November 10, 1979, Pope John Paul II spoke to the Pontifical Academy of Science. In the address titled, "Faith, Science and the Galileo Case," the pope called for a reexamination of the whole episode.<sup>27</sup>
- On May 9, 1983, while addressing the subject of the church and science, John Paul II conceded that "Galileo had 'suffered from departments of the church.'"<sup>28</sup>

# Mariology

- Among women, she is most blessed (Luke 1:42) and all who claim to be Christian acknowledge her as a chosen vessel of God.
- Through the centuries, more and more doctrines concerning her have been ‘revealed.’ For example:
  1. Mary is called the Mother of God, 431 AD
  2. Prayers offered to Mary, 600
  3. Immaculate Conception (that she was sinless), 1854
  4. Assumption of Mary, 1950
  5. Mary Proclaimed Mother of the Church, 1965

# Catechism of the RC

- *She remained a virgin after the birth of Christ*  
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 510).
- *She was "Preserved free from all stain of original sin"*  
(Catechism, par. 966).
- *By Mary's prayers, she delivers souls from death*  
(par. 966)
- *Mary, "...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"* (par. 969).

- *"Mary has by grace been exalted above all angels and men to a place second only to her Son"*

(Vatican Council II, p. 421)

- *"This mother...is waiting and preparing your home for you"*  
(Handbook for Today's Catholic, p.31).

- **Was she sinless?** It would seem not since she said she needed a savior in Luke 1:47,

*"And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior."*

•**Did she remain a virgin after the birth of Jesus?**

Matt. 1:25 says that Joseph,

*". . .kept her a virgin **until** she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus."*

•**Did Jesus Had any Brothers?**

John 17:5, Psalm 69:4-9

•**Did Jesus Had any Sisters?**

*Mark 6:2-3*

•**Does she mediate and intercede for sinners?**

The scriptures seem to contradict this when it states that Jesus is the only mediator between God and man (*1 Tim. 2:5*)

# The Purgatory & 1 Cor. 3:13

*<sup>3</sup> his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each **man's work**. <sup>14</sup> If what he has built survives, he will receive his **reward**. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, he will **suffer loss**; he himself will be saved, but only as one Escaping through the flames.*

- This Text does not teach purgatory as a place we go to in order to have some of our sins cleansed from us.
- It teaches that even though the person is justified by faith and cannot face damnation, his works will, however, be judged on "that day."

- Those works which are good will survive the fires of judgment the way gold, silver, and precious stones can survive fire.
- Those works which are good will survive the fires of judgment the
- But false works will be consumed the way fire consumes wood, hay, and straw.
- What is left has no bearing on whether or not we are saved. It has to do with rewards in heaven.

# Tradition & the Bible

1. *"The apostles left bishops as their successors. They them 'their own position of teaching authority.'"*  
(Paragraph 77)
2. *"This living transmission, accomplished through the Holy Spirit, is called tradition..."* (Par. 78)
3. *"Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence."* (Par. 82).

- Within the Catholic scope of Tradition, many doctrines have been "revealed" to the Church over the centuries.

For example,

there is the veneration of Mary,  
her immaculate conception and  
her bodily assumption into heaven.

There is also the apocrypha, transubstantiation,  
praying to saints,  
the confessional,  
penance,  
purgatory, and more.

# Sola Scriptura

By *sola Scriptura* Protestants mean that Scripture alone is the primary and absolute source for all doctrine and Practice (faith and morals).

*Sola Scriptura* implies several things:

1. The Bible is a direct *revelation* from God. As such, it has divine authority
2. The Bible is *sufficient*: it is all that is necessary for faith and practice

3. the Scriptures not only have sufficiency but they also possess *final authority*. They are the final court of appeal on all doctrinal and moral matters

4. The Bible is *perspicuous* (clear). The perspicuity of Scripture does not mean that everything in the Bible is perfectly clear, but rather the essential teachings are.

5. *Scripture interprets Scripture*

# Does the Bible Teach Sola Scriptura?

- Scripture without tradition is said to be “God breathed”  
2 Tim. 3:16-17
- Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for not accepting sola scripture

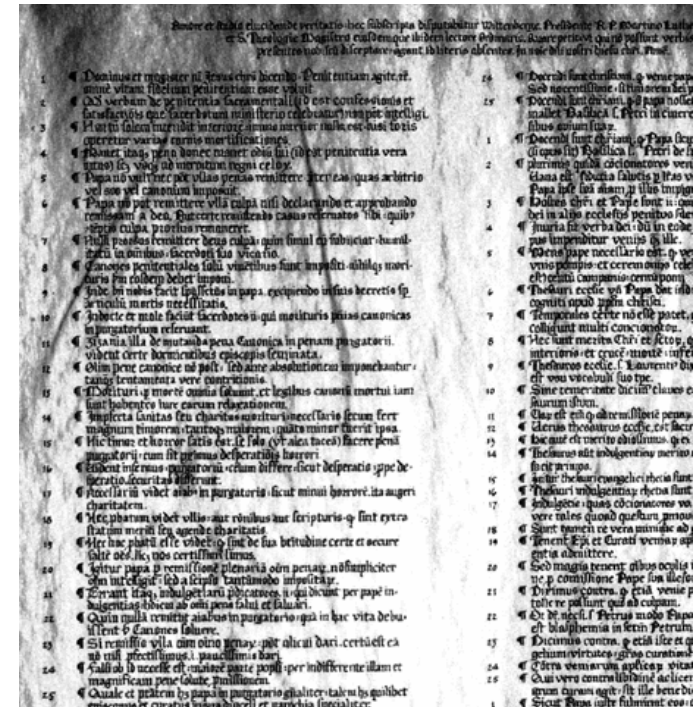
*"And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?... You have nullified the word of God, for the sake of your tradition" Mt.15:3,6*

- The Bible constantly warns us  
*"not to go beyond what is written" 1 Cor. 4:6*

# Reasons for the Reformation

Medieval Catholicism experienced the following:

- The translation of the English Bible, John Wycliffe
- Vast Tax Free church possessions, 1/5 of Europe
- Indulgences
- The Renaissance
- Invention of the Printing
- Martin Luther's publication of his 95 Theses
- Translation of the German Bible



- What were indulgences?

In the sacrament of penance, Christians confessed sins  
And found absolution for them.

- The process of penance involved *satisfaction*—paying  
The Temporal penalty for those sins.

- Under certain circumstances, someone who was truly  
Contrite and had confessed his sins could receive partial  
(or, rarely, complete) remission of temporal punishment  
by purchasing a letter of indulgence.

Martin Luther—The Early Years: Christian History, Issue 34,  
(Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today, Inc.) 1997

# Justification by Faith Alone

- Justification is a divine act where God declares the sinner to be innocent of his sins. It is a legal action in that God declares the sinner righteous -- as though he has satisfied the Law of God
- This justification is based entirely on the sacrifice of Christ by His shed blood:  
*"...having now been justified by His blood..."* Rom. 5:9
- Justification is a gift of grace (Rom. 3:24; Titus 3:7) that comes through faith (Rom. 3:28; 5:1).
- Christians receive Jesus (John 1:12) and put their faith-filled trust in what Jesus did on the cross (Isaiah 53:12; 1 Pet. 2:24) and in so doing are justified by God

- The Bible states that justification is not by works (Rom. 3:20, 28; 4:5; Eph. 2:8-9)
- because our righteous deeds are filthy rags before God  
Isaiah 64:6
- Therefore, we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone

# Council of Trent: Canons on Justification

**CANON 9:** "If any one saith, that by faith alone the impious is justified; in such wise as to mean, that nothing else is required to co-operate in order to the obtaining the grace of Justification, and that it is not in any way necessary, that he be prepared and disposed by the movement of his own will; let him be ***anathema***."

- *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:20).*
- *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24).*
- *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law*<sup>part I</sup>*(Rom. 3:28).*

**•Rom. 4:3**

*For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness"*

**•Rom. 5:1**

*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"*

**•Eph. 2:8**

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"*

**•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"*

**Canon 14:** "If any one saith, that man is truly absolved from his sins and justified, because that he assuredly believed himself absolved and justified; or, that no one is truly justified but he who believes himself justified; and that, by this faith alone, absolution and justification are effected; let him be anathema

## **Our Position**

- **Rom. 4:3**

*"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness*

- **Rom. 5:1**

*"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"*

# The Catholic Response

- James 2:24

*"You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone"*

- the context of James is speaking of dead faith as opposed to living, saving faith

- James states that if you "say" you have faith but have no works (James 2:14), that faith cannot save you because it is a dead faith (v. 17)

- Of the acts to be performed by Catholics for justification, baptism is the first requirement

- Because the Catholic view of justification is a cooperative effort between God and man, this justification can be lost and regained by man's failure to maintain sufficient grace through meritorious works.

- "Christ instituted the sacrament of Penance for all sinful members of his Church: above all for those who, since Baptism, have fallen into grave sin, and have thus lost their baptismal grace and wounded ecclesial communion. It is to them that the sacrament of Penance offers a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification. The Fathers of the Church present this sacrament as 'the second plank (of salvation) after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace' (CCC, par. 1446).

- **Baptism** is the first and chief sacrament of forgiveness of sins because it unites us with Christ, who died for our sins and rose for our justification, so that 'we too might walk in newness of life'"

(Catechism of the Catholic Church par. 977).

- **Good works**, according to Roman Catholicism, are also required and are rewarded with going to heaven:

- "We can therefore hope in the glory of heaven promised by God to those who love him and do his will.

In every circumstance, each one of us should hope, with the grace of God, to persevere 'to the end' and to obtain the joy of heaven, as God's eternal reward ***for the good works*** accomplished with the grace of Christ"

(CCC, par. 1821).

- To say that we can add to the finished work of Christ on the cross is to say that what He did was not sufficient to save us.
- *"But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works otherwise grace is no longer grace" (Rom. 11:6)*

# Eternally Secure?

**Canon 23:** "If any one saith, that a man once justified can sin no more, **nor lose grace**, and that therefore he that falls and sins was never truly justified; or, on the other hand, that he is able, during his whole life, to avoid all sins, even those that are venial,- except by a special privilege from God, as the Church holds in regard of the Blessed Virgin; let him be anathema."

## Our Position

### •**Philippians 1:6**

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

- **John 6:40**

For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have *eternal life*, and I will raise him up at the last day."

- **John 10:28**

I give them eternal life, and they **shall never perish**; no one can snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; ***no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.***

- **1 John 2:19**

They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us