

The Beast Empire

Part 18

In light of the growing pedophilia and sexual assault scandal rocking the Catholic Church, it is important to remember that not very long ago the organization was found paying off a lobbying firm to block bills related to sex crimes against children.

In 2015, the New York State Catholic Conference, contracted the lobbying groups, Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, Patricia Lynch & Associates, Hank Sheinkopf, and Mark Behan Communications to block a bill called the Child Victims Act, which was aimed at making it easier for victims of child sex crimes to come out against their accusers. The bill also sought to extend the statute of limitations for sex crimes, since many victims are too afraid to speak out until too much time has passed to prosecute.

Between 2007 and 2015, the Catholic church in New York only spent more than 2.1 million dollars lobbying on various bills, mostly related to sex offenses.

This week, the Catholic Church got more bad news, as it was announced that the states of New York and New Jersey were launching investigations into how the church has handled sex crimes within its ranks.

Following the announcement, the New York state's attorney general sent subpoenas to every Catholic representative in the state, requesting any records that were kept in regards to internal investigations of sexual abuse within the church.

The Attorney General is seeking any and all documents pertaining to allegations, findings from internal church investigations and payments to victims, according to a law enforcement source familiar with the investigation but not authorized to speak publicly.

New York archdiocese spokesman Joseph Zwilling said that the network of churches in the state will be fully cooperating with authorities.

"It is not a surprise to us that the attorney general would look to begin a civil investigation, and she will find the Archdiocese of New York, and the other seven dioceses in the state, ready and eager to work together with her in the investigation," Zwilling said.

Attorney General Barbara Underwood, who is leading the investigation, said that the growing scandals across the country have motivated her efforts.

"The Pennsylvania grand jury report shined a light on incredibly disturbing and depraved acts by Catholic clergy, assisted by a culture of secrecy and cover-ups in the dioceses. Victims in New York deserve to be heard as well – and we are going to do everything in our power to bring them the justice they deserve," Underwood said.

As TFTP reported last month, a scathing grand jury report revealed that hundreds of Catholic priests in the state of Pennsylvania sexually abused young children, a portion focuses specifically on Pittsburgh where nearly 100 priests are accused of running a pedophile ring where they helped each other prey on helpless children with no oversight.

The report claims that at least 99 priests in the Pittsburgh Diocese were involved in the pedophile ring—nine of whom were not named—and they received help from local officials who refused to explore investigations into the abuse because it was considered “bad publicity” for the Catholic Church.

The priests are accused of working together in a predatory ring that was ongoing for years in which they ***“manufactured child pornography, shared intelligence on victims and gave large gold crosses to certain boys to mark them as already being ‘groomed,’ for abuse,”*** according to a report from ‘Penn Live’.

Since 1962 Rome set about to change the tenor of ecumenism. Prior to 1962, Protestants were viewed as “heretics”, but following Vatican II, we were referred to as “lost brethren”. Vatican II was Jesuit-orchestrated and directed, they admit to this fact. The agenda was to woo the “lost brethren” back under Rome’s umbrella of control. Given the scandal enveloping the Vatican, it is appropriate to reiterate an important fact!

The Roman Catholic "Church" is Not Christian

The reader needs to understand why this is so. Failure to grasp this fact can be an impediment to understand the Bible about the end of days!

Practically all precepts of the papists contradict the Bible repeatedly. It is the largest cult in the world and most preachers will not openly say so because it is so large. For Catholics who read this, please remember this: the person that tells you the truth is the one that cares. Jesus wants you to quit kissing those rings, and instead become washed clean in His Blood!

For a glimpse of the atrocities committed by the Catholic cult, do a net search on the Inquisition or the Crusades. During the Inquisition, the Roman Catholic church killed millions. Why? Primarily to suppress any and all opposition to the pope. Side "benefits" included taking the material wealth of its victims and showing the pope's power. The papist Inquisitors tortured, crippled, burned, and imprisoned millions of people. Whatever happened to love your enemies? -(Matthew 5:44)

Before we get to specific problems with Catholic doctrine, let's review how this blood-thirsty organization treated a man who simply wanted to get the Bible into the hands of the common people. In the late 1300s, John Wyclif translated the scriptures from the Latin Vulgate. Some 40 odd years after his death, the Catholic "religion" dug up his bones and burned them calling him an arch-heretic. In the 1500's William Tyndale sought to translate the Bible into the language of the common people, English. He could not gain approval from the Catholic pope so

he worked as an outlaw on the run in Europe, translating the Bible. He was eventually captured, condemned and executed in 1536. It is because of people like these men, Tyndale and Wycliffe, that we have the Scriptures today. If the papists had their way, we'd still be in ignorance about the Bible and enslaved to the pope. Time fails me here to tell of other martyrs like John Hus, John Rogers, etc. who were killed by popish thugs.

I'll list many of the Roman Catholic tradition first and then what the Bible has to say about the matter.

CATHOLIC TRADITION - Call priests father, e.g., Father McKinley.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - -(Matthew 23:9): ***“And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.”***

CATHOLIC TRADITION - Forbidding the priesthood to marry.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS -

1) It is devilish to forbid God's people to marry when He has given marriage to be received with thanksgiving.

1st Timothy:4:1 ***“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;”***
4:2 ***“Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”***
4:3 ***“Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.”***

2) Peter was married (remember the pope is supposedly continuing the apostolic line through Peter).

Matthew 8:14 ***“And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. “***

Mark 1:30 ***“But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.”***

Luke 4:38 ***“And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.”***

3) Paul, a great apostle, remained single; however he made it very clear that he could marry if he wanted to.

1 Corinthians 9:5 ***“Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?”***

CATHOLIC TRADITION - Mary never had other children after the Lord Jesus. A perpetual virgin.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - Mary and Joseph indeed had children. They were the Lord's half brothers and sisters for their father was Joseph and mother was Mary.

Matthew 13:55 ***"Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?"***

13:56 ***"And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?"***

Mark 6:3 ***"Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him."***

CATHOLIC TRADITION - Mary is the queen of heaven.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - Worshipping the queen of heaven (which is not the Mary of the Bible) is worshipping another god and it provokes the Lord to anger.

Jeremiah 7:17 ***"Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?"***

7:18 ***"The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.***

7:19 ***"Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?"***

CATHOLIC TRADITION - Mary is the mother of God.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - Mary is the mother of the earthly Jesus, not God. Jesus pre-existed from everlasting as God -(see [John 1:1](#)). When He came to redeem mankind, He laid aside His glory and was made like unto sinful man so that He could take our punishment -(Hebrew 2:9). God has no mother. He has lived from everlasting which means He had no beginning.

Isaiah 43:10 ***"Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. [If Mary gave birth to God, she'd be God.] "***

Psalms 93:2 ***"Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting."***

Micah 5:2 ***"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler [Jesus] in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."***

Philippians 2:6 ***"Who [Jesus], being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:"***

2:7 ***"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:"***

CATHOLIC TRADITION - Pope called Holy Father.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - The term Holy Father is only found one time in the entire Bible. It was when Jesus prayed before He and His disciples went to the garden of Gethsemane. He referred to God the Father as Holy Father. It is blasphemy to call a man by God's name

John 17:11 ***“And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.”***

CATHOLIC TRADITION - Purgatory, nuns, popes.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - None of these is mentioned in the Bible. It is a sin to add to the Bible.

Proverbs 30:6 ***“Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”***

The pope is a man who takes upon himself honor which belongs to no human being. Even the very name by which he allows himself to be called (Holy Father) is highly presumptuous and blasphemous (see above).

One does not need the pope to determine what God's will is. The Bible says that God has given the Holy Ghost to each believer and that He (the Holy Ghost) guides and leads us into all truth. All a believer needs is the Bible and the Holy Ghost to know the will of the Lord. Popery has been treacherous, but worse, each pope has been the blind leading the blind. Jesus said that both will fall into the ditch. Catholics, come out of this system that cannot save and know Jesus for yourself, intimate and up-close.

NOTE: Purgatory is supposedly a place where a person is purified of sins--even popes supposedly go there. The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the one that purifies us of our sins.

Romans 8:1 ***“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.... When a person dies their eternal home is sealed--heaven or hell--no in between.***
Hebrews 9:27 ***“...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”***

CATHOLIC TRADITION - Venerating/worshipping images. Pope bows to statues of Mary, people worship the eucharist and have statues/candles in their homes and churches.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - It is idolatry to venerate images. We are not even supposed to make them.

Exodus 20:4 ***“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.”***

20:5 ***“Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a***

jealous God...

CATHOLIC TRADITION - The mass. Through transubstantiation, the wafer/host and the wine supposedly become the actual blood and body of Jesus Christ when the priest prays over them.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - Jesus died once for sins, never to be repeated. He sits on the right hand of God and does not reappear in the mass as a mass of blood and flesh.

Hebrews 10:12 ***“But this man [Jesus], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;”***

10:13 ***“From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.”***

10:14 ***“For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.”***

10:15 ***“Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,”***

10:16 ***“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;”***

10:17 ***“And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”***

10:18 ***“Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.”***

John 19:30 ***“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”***

1st Corinthians 11:24 ***“And when he [Jesus] had given thanks, he brake it [bread], and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”***

11:25 ***“After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”***

11:26 ***“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come (not for the forgiveness of sins or to receive Jesus).”***

CATHOLIC TRADITION - Saved, in part, by good works.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - Good works are the fruits that grow out of being saved. They do not make you saved. An apple does not make its tree an apple tree, it was already an apple tree before any apples appeared. When you see the apples; however, you know what kind of tree it is. If a person is saved, he will shew forth good works because he has the spirit of Christ in him. The good works don't make him saved only the blood of Jesus can do that.

1st John 1:7b ***“...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”***

Acts 16:31b ***“...believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”***

Romans 3:24 ***“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:***

3:25 ***“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;***

3:26 ***“To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”***

3:27 ***“Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.”***

3:28 ***“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”***

What about James 2:20 "faith without works is dead"?

The kind of faith that saves is a faith that shows forth the works of God. Even devils believe in Jesus and tremble -(James 2:19). Many people believe in Jesus but they won't follow Him. They have a faith, but not the kind that saves. If a person has true faith in Jesus, the Holy Ghost dwells in him and will cause good works will show forth in his life. The good works confirm the faith by which the person was saved. James 2:21-23 uses Abraham as an example. Abraham believed God so when God asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac, Abraham, out of his faith in God, offered up Isaac.

CATHOLIC TRADITION - The church is founded on Peter.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church. Peter was a man like you and me. Jesus called Peter Satan in Matthew 16:23 when Peter rebuked Jesus dying. When Cornelius tried to worship Peter, Peter responded, ***“Stand up; I myself also am a man.”*** -(Acts 10:26). The pope needs to remember Acts 10:26 when he has men bowing to him and kissing his hand like he is worthy of worship.

1st Corinthians 3:11 ***“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”***

Matthew 21:42 ***“Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected [Jesus], the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?”***

CATHOLIC TRADITION - Confessing sins to a priest. Petitioning saints and Mary.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - We are to confess our sins and needs to God alone.

I John 1:9 ***“If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”***

Matthew 6:9, 12 ***“After this manner...pray ye: Our Father... forgive us....”***

1 Timothy 2:5 ***“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus [not Mary, not saints, not priests, not the pope];”***

I John 2:1 ***“...And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”***

There are many other Scriptures that could have been used here to testify against the doctrines of the Catholic cult. There are also many other doctrines of the Catholic cult which

could have been refuted (e.g. the sacraments, receiving the Holy Ghost, salvation through the Catholic church, penance, rosary, etc.).

The Catholic cult has a history of taking the money of poor widows in order to say masses for the dead (which do no good) and collecting the material possessions of nuns. In Italy, the heart of Papalism, there is an often used saying that goes, "Without money, they don't sing the mass." That is really pitiful on several fronts--1) mass is blasphemous and people who trust in it are hell-bound 2) there's no such thing as purgatory and 3) the gift of God is without price.

Roman Mary worship today is probably the wealthiest government/tax-free corporation in the world. It owns a good share of America's hospitals and has healthy real estate interests. The bottom line is, if you want to get right with God, you have to go through His Son, Jesus Christ, not the Whore of Babylon (aka the Catholic "church").

While the Catholic Church claims to be the one true Church; however, many of her doctrines and traditions DO NOT fit into Scripture.

Is the Roman Catholic Institution a cult? Yes and No. The errors of Roman Catholicism are heretical in that sense that they compromise or undermine the orthodox confession of the church. In short, we regard Roman Catholicism as neither a biblically sound Christian church nor a cult, but a Christian church with a mixture of orthodox and erroneous Pagan teachings. One source provides this response to this question. To satisfy answers to this question requires one have knowledge of the early Christian movement.

Roman Catholicism

Founder: Emperor Constantine

Overview:

The Roman Catholic church, headquartered in Rome, Italy, has its own powerful City-State, the Vatican. The Roman Catholic church unofficially came into being in 312 A.D., at the time of the so-called "miraculous conversion" to Christianity of the Roman Emperor Constantine but he still worshipped the sun god. Although Christianity was not made the official religion of the Roman Empire until the edicts of Theodosius I in 380 and 381 A.D., Constantine, from 312 A.D. until his death in 337, was engaged in the process of simultaneously building pagan temples and Christian churches, and was slowly turning over the reins of his pagan priesthood to the Bishop of Rome. However, the family of Constantine did not give up the last vestige of his priesthood until after the disintegration of the Roman Empire – that being the title the emperors bore as heads of the pagan priesthood – *Pontifex Maximus* – a title which the popes would inherit. The popes also inherited Constantine's titles as the self-appointed civil head of the church – *Summus Pontifex* (Vicar of Christ and Bishop of Bishops).

Prior to the time of Constantine's "conversion," Christians were persecuted not so much for their profession of faith in Christ, but because they would not include pagan deities in their faith as well. Then, with Constantine's emphasis on making his new-found Christianity palatable to the heathen in the Empire, the "Christianization" of these pagan deities was facilitated. For example, pagan rituals and idols gradually took on Christian meanings and names and were incorporated into "Christian" worship (e.g., "saints" replaced the cult of pagan gods in both worship and as patrons of cities; mother/son statues were renamed Mary and Jesus; etc.), and pagan holidays were reclassified as Christian holy days (e.g., the Roman Lupercalia and the feast of purification of Isis became the Feast of the Nativity; the Saturnalia celebrations were replaced by Christmas celebrations; an ancient festival of the dead was replaced by All Souls Day, rededicated to Christian heroes [now Halloween]; etc.). A transition had occurred – instead of being persecuted for failure to worship pagan deities, Christians who did not agree with the particular orthodoxy backed by the Emperor were now persecuted in the name of Christ! "Christianized" Rome had become the legitimate successor of pagan Rome! This is the sad origin of the Roman Catholic Church as it compromised from the very beginning with paganism and in doing so became a cult serving the creature (Mary) more than the creator (Jesus).



When Rome went from being pagan to Christian under Constantine, they had to find a replacement for the great mother of paganism. It was not until the time of Constantine that anyone began to look at Mary as a goddess. Since Mary was the mother of Jesus Christ, she was the most logical person to replace the pagan mother goddess. The pagans could continue their prayers and devotion to the mother goddess, only they would call her Mary. The pagans worshipped the mother as much or more than her son and this is exactly what the Roman Catholicism does. True Christianity teaches that Jesus Christ is to be worshipped – not his mother. The fact remains that Jesus never hinted at the idea of Mary worship nor did any of the apostles. Worshipping the mother goddess along with her child took place centuries before Jesus Christ was ever born in many different parts of the world. In 431 A.D. Mary worship became an official doctrine of the church in at the Council of Ephesus.

Since the formation of the Roman Empire, the Roman emperors (including Constantine) held the office of Pontifex Maximus (Supreme Priest) and were worshipped by the pagans as gods. Emperor Gratian in 376 A.D. refused the title of Pontifex Maximus, and from then on it was bestowed upon the bishop of Rome. From hereon, the bishop of Rome was to be the Supreme Priest to the pagans and the head of the Christian church; the streams of paganism and Christianity flowed together under the leadership of Pontifex Maximus, ultimately to be called the Pope. The question remains, how can a man at the same time be the Pontifex Maximus which was the head of the pagan mysteries and the head of the church? Although the Roman Catholic church claims that Peter was the first Pope, it is strange that we never read any such claim by Peter. The fact that Jesus never instituted the office of Pope in his church during his earthly ministry plainly shows that the Pope is neither Bishop of bishops nor the successor of the apostle Peter.

One issue that is very damaging to idea of a Pope is the fact that some of the popes were so depraved, even people who professed no religion at all were ashamed of them. Looking into the history of the papacy, it is easy to see that not all popes were holy men. Accusations against them included but were not limited to blasphemy, simony (the buying and selling of the papal office), perjury, murder, adultery, intercourse with virgins and nuns, incest, sodomy, bestiality, robbery, idolatry, magic, infidelity, and gross and unnatural immorality. Historians, even Roman Catholic historians will even attest to the fact there have been many sinful popes. Therefore, if popes are supposed to be the "representatives of Christ" here on earth and they are living an immoral lifestyle, should their commands still be obeyed if they are living in sin? No, it would be hypocritical for them to make rulings and decrees, and yet this is exactly what has been done by the popes. Jesus never said, "do as I say, not as I do". On the contrary, Jesus Christ led a holy life and we should follow His example. Here are a few examples:

- Pope Sergius III obtained the papal office by murder. He lived openly with a woman who bore him several illegitimate children. His reign began a period known as "the rule of the harlots".
- Pope John XII was an immoral man and whose palace was likened to a brothel. The bishop of Cremona, Luitprand said, "No honest lady dared to show herself in public, for Pope John had no respect either for single girls, married women, or widows – they were sure to be defiled by him, even on the tombs of the holy apostles, Peter and Paul."
- Pope Boniface VIII maintained his position through lavish distribution of stolen money. He was quoted saying, "to enjoy oneself and lie carnally with women or with boys is no more a sin than rubbing one's hands together."
- Pope John XXII was said to have seduced and violated three hundred nuns. He must have had a strong and insatiable libido for he kept a harem of no less than two hundred girls. He was called "the most depraved criminal who ever sat on the papal throne." A Vatican record says this about him, "His lordship, Pope John, committed perversity with the wife of his brother, incest with holy nuns, intercourse with virgins, adultery with the married, and all sorts of sex crimes... wholly given to sleep and other carnal desires, totally adverse to the life and teaching of Christ... he was publicly called the Devil incarnate."
- Pope Pius II was said to have been the father of many illegitimate children. He spoke openly of the methods he used to seduce women and he encouraged young men to also seduce women and even offered to instruct them in methods of self-indulgence.
- Pope Sixtus IV financed his wars by selling church offices to the highest bidders. He used the papacy to enrich himself and his family, for no less than eight cardinals were his nephews, some being given the position of cardinal even as a boy.
- Pope Alexander VI won the election of the papacy by bribery. He lived with a woman with whom he had a daughter; whom afterward he committed incest with and produced five children. He also lived in public incest with his two sisters. He conducted a sex orgy in the Vatican in which he had a banquet featuring fifty nude girls who danced and serviced the guests – and even offered prizes to the man who could engage in sexual intercourse the most times.

Martin Luther himself also witnessed that Rome with its popes was anything but a holy city. He was quoted as saying, "No one can imagine what sins and infamous actions are committed in Rome, they must be seen and heard to be believed." It has been said, "If there be a hell, Rome is built over it." Having shown just a few examples of the corruption and wickedness that has existed in the lives of the popes; this evidence seriously undermines the belief of "apostolic succession," the claim that the Roman Catholic church is the one "true" church supposedly claiming to trace a line of pope back to Peter, since Peter himself stressed the importance of holiness. It is important to note that pagan popes can be traced back to Babylon but no Christian popes existed until Constantine in 312 A.D. declared himself to be Pope.

The popes were not the only ones that struggled with sexual misconduct; the clergy were just as guilty. When the doctrine of celibacy began to be taught, many clergy were married men. An edict was established in 315 A.D. that forbade a priest to remarry if his wife were to die. In 386 A.D. another edict came into being, allowing priests to be married but forbidding them to have sexual intercourse with their wives. Although this edict was in effect, a large number of clergy openly took wives and fathered children. Some monasteries and nunneries were known in history to be so bad that they actually had a worse reputation than the brothels. The violations by priests were so bad at one point that even female animals were not allowed on monastery property! Priests were urged to be chaste, and if they failed, at least be careful. With this man-made tradition imposed upon them, it made an already difficult job of the confessional even more difficult. The confessional was where sins had to be confessed specifically and in detail so that the priest could render judgment and offer forgiveness of sins. It is not hard to see that the outcome of girls and women and even boys confessing their moral weaknesses and desires to unmarried priests could readily result in widespread abuse. The Roman Catholic church has been lately rocked by one scandal after another of sexual abuse by priests.

The doctrine of a celibate priesthood that has done more damage than good since its inception. At the beginning of creation, God did not want Adam to be alone and created Eve for him. According to the Bible, it was God's design for a husband and wife to become one flesh and to cleave to each other, and yet the Roman Catholic church says otherwise. They have another man-made doctrine condemning priests to celibacy, something which God never intended. Bishops (i.e. pastors, priests) according the Bible are supposed the husband of one wife (I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6), Roman Catholicism adds to the Bible by placing an undue burden upon the clergy by forbidding them to marry (I Timothy 4:1-3), the Bible calls this a "doctrine of devils!" It is important to note that the priests of pagan Rome were also required to be celibate, and this tradition dates back all the way to Babylon and Semiramis several thousand years before. Even the idea of confessing to a priest came from Babylon. It is from recorded Babylonian confessions that historians have been able to come up with conclusions about the Babylonian concepts of right and wrong. The priests of pagan Rome were called "fathers," but Jesus said to call no man "father." (Matthew 23:9-12) From what source did the Roman Catholic custom of calling a priest by this title come from, Jesus or the pagans? Jesus spoke against flattering titles to his disciples, he wanted them to treat each other equally. Jesus meant for God the Father to receive all glory, not men. It is

plain to see that the majority of the traditions of the Roman Catholic church are man-made and of pagan origins. An intellectually honest search will show the pagan roots of the Roman Catholic church.

The cardinals were the chief clergy in pagan Rome and the word in Latin means "hinge," hence they were pivotal serving as the priests of Janus who was the pagan god of doors and hinges. He was known as the "opener and shutter," and we can understand that better by the words of Jesus in Revelation 3:7-8. Jesus was the true opener, Janus was a counterfeit. These pagan priests wore the color red because it symbolized fire, they were the keepers of the sacred fire and accordingly were known as the "Flamens." All throughout the Bible, the color red is associated with sin. (Isaiah 1:18; Ezekiel 23:14-15; Revelation 17:4) With some knowledge of history, it is easy to see the merge of Babylonian paganism and Christianity and how they became one.

Roman Catholics who read the Bible will soon discover that many Catholic teachings and practices are specifically forbidden by Jesus Christ Himself. Worship is vain when it is based upon the commandments of men rather than the Word of God. Valid tradition is based upon Scripture and confirms it. Vain tradition is based upon man's teachings and violates it. In Roman Catholicism, tradition is consistently elevated above the Scripture. The result is vain worship, and no matter how sincere, it makes the commandment of God of no effect – a very serious matter.

The last few popes have expanded the ecumenical (worldwide) emphasis in the Roman Catholic Church to unprecedented heights. All unity purchased at the expense of doctrinal purity is satanic and deceptive. II Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; II Timothy 3:1-17, 4:1-8. All who join hands in ecumenical fellowship with those who preach a false Gospel are under God's curse. (Galatians 1:6-10)

People do not realize that counterfeit religions, like counterfeit money, must resemble the genuine in order to deceive those who lack spiritual discernment or those who have not had the opportunity or taken the time to carefully compare all the major tenets of Roman Catholicism with the truth of God's Word. Only when one compares men's words with Scripture will it become obvious that Roman Catholicism is a carefully crafted counterfeit, not the pure, genuine, Biblical faith.

Jesus Christ plainly taught that Mary was on the same plane with all other Christians who would do the will of God. In Mark 3:31-35 we read:

"There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother. "

Do not avoid the truth here on the authority of Jesus Christ, *"Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."* And when one heard Jesus

and cried out, *"Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked,"* Jesus answered, *"Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."* (Luke 11:27-28) There is no hint in the Bible that New Testament Christians ever regarded Mary as more than a good woman. She had no authority among the apostles. No one was taught to pray to her, to do her homage, to adore her, or to partake of the unscriptural worship which Catholics do, but call it by other names.

To deny that Roman Catholicism is a cult is to repudiate the reformation and mock the millions of martyrs who died at Rome's hands. The "Christ" of Roman Catholicism is just as false as its "Mary." Remember that a cult according to the Word of God is any group of people that worship anything or anyone other than Jesus Christ, and [believe](#) anything contrary to His word as recorded in the Bible. Roman Catholicism is not truly Christian, but is in fact an offshoot of Christianity and the largest and oldest "Christian" cult in the world. In addition, the display of adoration, the gaudy parade of a mere man as if he were a god, the pandering to idolatrous worship through bowing down and kissing his ring, the insistence that he be addressed as "His Holiness the Pope" or "Father" of all Christians cannot but confirm to any Christian that the Roman Catholic church is a cult.

The Scriptures use terms such as "apostasy," "false teacher," "false prophet," "error," "seducer," "heretic," and "doctrines of devils" to describe impure doctrine. The Roman Catholic Church meets every Bible criteria for apostasy, which is a turning away from and rejection of the truth. Its gospel is false, and thus is cursed of God (Galatians 1:8). It has exalted its own man-made traditions to the level of Holy Scripture, and thus worships God in vain (Matthew 15:1-9). Its leaders are false prophets; its dogmas are doctrines of devils; its Papacy is antichrist. What does God say regarding an apostate entity? Does He say we should find positive ways to see that entity? Does He say we should try to find common ground through which we can share and discuss the gospel in love and understanding? No, God says, *"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues!"* (Revelation 18:4). We know that the Roman Catholic church has become an expert in taking various ideas or traditions and mixing them together into its system of religion.

The Roman Catholic church always has been and continues to be a false church. The Biblical doctrines it professes to believe and teach are perverted by doctrine based upon tradition that contradicts the Bible, God's infallible Word. Error is never more deceptive than when it is presented with a mask of truth. The leaders of the Catholic Church have always fit the description of the false teachers who God warned in advance would come on the scene in the last days, deceiving many with their counterfeit words - as described in II Peter 2:1-3, 18, 19.

It is essential to understand that two basic false teachings of Roman Catholicism (even apart from its many other errors), clearly classify it as a false cult rather than a true church. These two basic errors are:

1. Roman Catholicism, although teaching that the Bible is the Word of God, adds the spurious apocryphal books to the Scriptures, and also elevates church tradition and the edicts of popes and councils (the words of men), to the same or

an even greater level of authority than the Word of God. This amounts to adding to the Word of God, thereby placing Roman Catholicism under God's curse. (Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19)

2. Roman Catholicism, although teaching that faith in Jesus Christ is necessary for salvation, actually denies the truth of the Gospel by adding sacraments, good works, and purgatory as additional requirements for forgiveness of sin and for eternal life. This amounts to the preaching of a false Gospel which places the Roman Catholic Church under God's curse. (Galatians 1:6-10)

Thus, by Scriptural standards, the Roman Catholic Church is a false church and a cult that can only expect God's judgment, not a true church that can claim God's blessing. No amount of outward change should be permitted to obscure this fact. Roman Catholicism is nothing more than Babylonian paganism that has been whitewashed and made to appear Christian.

Cult Beliefs:

- They believe purgatory is a place where a person is purified of sins – even popes supposedly go there. *The Bible says, when a person dies their eternal home is sealed – heaven or hell – there is no place in between like purgatory. (Hebrews 9:27) The word "purgatory" and its concept is not found in the Bible.*
 - They believe in worshipping images of Mary, crucifix, saints, angels, etc. *The Bible speaks out against this. (Exodus 20:4-5)*
 - They believe in repetitious prayer to Mary, saints and angels. The complete Rosary involves repeating the Hail Mary 53 times, the Lord's prayer 6 times, 5 Mysteries, 5 Meditations on the Mysteries, 5 Glory Be's, and the Apostles' Creed. The Rosary did not come into general use until after the beginning of the thirteenth century, and not officially sanctioned until after the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century. *The concept of praying to Mary, saints, and angels is not found in the Bible; on the contrary, we are directed to pray to our Father. (Matthew 6:9-13) In the Rosary, Mary is prayed to almost 9 times for every prayer directed to God. The Bible speaks out very clearly against praying in vain repetitions as the heathens do.*
1. In "The Holy Father's Prayer for the Marian Year [1987]," John Paul II asks Mary to do what only God can do – comfort, guide, strengthen, and protect "the whole of humanity ..." His prayer ends: "Sustain us, O Virgin Mary, on our journey of faith and obtain for us the grace of eternal salvation." (4/97, Berean Call).
 2. In preparing for an expected earthquake in December, 1990, in the Saint Louis area, parishioners at St. Agatha RC church turned to St. Agatha, "the patron saint of protection from the devastation of volcanoes, earthquakes, fire, and all kinds of violence." The church reported in the St. Louis Southwest City Journal of 10/21/90 that a novena was to be held, including a recitation of the rosary, a prayer to St. Agatha, and a closing benediction. (Reported in the November/December 1990, Foundation.)

3. A Roman Catholic ritual for selling a home: Put a statue of St. Joseph in a bottle or mason jar and bury it in the front yard (head first), thereby guaranteeing a quick sale of the home. After the sale, the seller is to dig up St. Joseph, put him in a prominent place in the new residence, and pray to him (Mother Angelica, EWTN Catholic TV, 10/95).

Take note in the following two prayers how Mary is magnified above Jesus...

- Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. *Why is Mary being prayed to this way, is she God? The Bible never directs us to pray to Mary.*
- “Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! Our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping, in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.” *Roman Catholicism should be renamed "Mary Worship", because that is really what it is; it places her on a high pedestal, equal with God. Mary was the mother of Jesus, nothing more, and she is not the advocate as mentioned in the Bible. (1 John 2:1)*
- They forbid their priests marry, when God specifically set up marriage for all, even priests. *(1 Timothy 3:2) To impose the burden of celibacy upon a priest is to put a man-made burden that is not necessary on them and not mandated by God, it is a clear case of putting human tradition ahead of the Bible. Many Roman Catholics believe that Peter was not married, the Bible says otherwise. (Matthew 8:14-15; Mark 1:30-31; Luke 4:38-39) It is interesting to note that priests of pagan Rome were also made to take a vow of celibacy as were the priests of Babylon.*
- They believe one way of attaining salvation from the punishment of one's sins is through indulgences, which can be purchased with money or through acts of penitence, acts of charity, or other pietistic means. The idea of indulgences is based on good works meriting God's grace. Since they believe Christ's sacrifice was insufficient for the full payment of the penalty of sin, acts of piety and gifts to the Roman Catholic church may be used as partial payment for one's sins. The adequacy of an indulgence depends upon the merit attributed to it by the Roman Catholic church. *The Bible says we are saved by faith and nothing else! Once you die, it's judgment time! (Ephesians 2:8-9, Hebrews 9:27)*
- They believe in confessing one's sins to a priest. *Jesus is the only mediator we need; we do not need the pope, priests, Mary or the saints. (Matthew 6:9, 12; 1 John 1:9, 2:1; 1 Timothy 2:5)*
- They believe it is necessary for salvation to partake in the Sacrament of the Eucharist (communion). They believe they actually eat and drink the body and blood of Christ through a process called transubstantiation, whereby a priest prays over the wafer and wine and it is supernaturally turned into Christ's body.

They will quote scripture (John 6:53-58; Matthew 26:26-28) out of context to support their viewpoint. *Jesus was alive when the last supper took place and by interpreting this scripture literally instead of figuratively (symbolizing his body and blood), it creates numerous problems. Jesus referred to himself as a "door," "vine," and "rock" and these descriptions are recognized as figurative. (John 10:9, 15:5; I Corinthians 10:4) Therefore Jesus is crucified afresh everyday by priests all over the world, who are putting him to open shame. The Bible says that Jesus was physically offered up once (died for our sins), never to be repeated again. (Hebrews 9:1-28, 10:12-18) He sits on the right hand of God and does not reappear in the Mass as a mass of blood and flesh. It is very important to note that Jesus told us to take the bread (which symbolized his body) and wine (which symbolized his blood); but he did so while he was here on earth and alive. Roman Catholicism makes Jesus and his disciples into cannibals, because he and his disciples were eating his body that was alive. (I Corinthians 11:23-26)*

- They believe there are oral traditions and teachings by Jesus that are not mentioned in the Bible; furthermore, the Roman Catholic religion has somehow been able to get this spoken word from somewhere, we're just not told how it was done. *This means whoever sits on the papal chair in Rome is considered more authoritative than the Bible itself. (Matthew 15:3,6-7; Mark 7:5-9,13) The cry of the Reformation was sola scriptura – the insistence that the Bible alone is the ultimate authority for all believers. The Holy Spirit's enlightenment is a safeguard against religious tyranny.*
- They believe that Mary never had anymore children after giving birth to Jesus and that she remained a perpetual virgin until she died. *Why are we to believe that Joseph and Mary never had sexual intercourse? What husband and wife live and die together without consummating their marriage? These are speculative questions, but it is obvious Mary could not have remained a virgin if she had other children as recorded in the Bible. (Matthew 13:55-56; Mark 6:3).*
- They believe that the church is founded upon the apostle Peter, that he was the first pope. *The true Church of Jesus Christ was not founded upon Peter, but upon Peter's confession of Christ's deity as recorded in Matthew 16:16: "...Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." The Bible says that Jesus is the foundation of the church. (Matthew 21:42; I Corinthians 3:11) Peter was not the first pope, nor is there any Biblical justification whatever for such an office. Peter's own inspired testimony as to his position and ministry is given in I Peter 5:1-4. He then identifies himself in II Peter 1:1 as "a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ..." Peter was a man like you and me. When Cornelius tried to worship Peter, Peter responded, "Stand up; I myself also am a man." (Acts 10:25-26). The pope needs to remember this when men are bowing to him and kissing his hand like he is worthy of worship. Furthermore, history confirms the fact that there were no popes in the early church, not even in the Roman Catholic church during the first centuries of its existence.*
- They believe the pope is the Holy Father, a title only given to God. *The pope is a man who takes upon himself honor which belongs to no human being. Even the very name by which he allows himself to be called (Holy Father) is highly presumptuous and blasphemous. (John 17:11)*

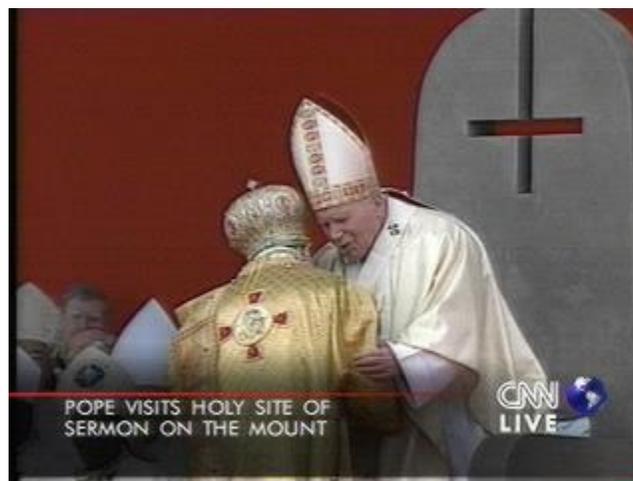
- They pray to and worship Mary – an 1854 papal decree (Pope Pius IX) on the Immaculate Conception of Mary that has never been revoked, states, "Let all the children of the Catholic Church ... continue to venerate, invoke, and pray to the most blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God, conceived without original sin." *Praying to Mary is something that is not spoken of in the Bible and would make her an equal with God, thus she has become a deity to Roman Catholics. Mary, according to the Roman Catholics has become the queen of heaven. When the queen of heaven is referred to in the Bible, she is spoken of negatively. (Jeremiah 7:17-19) Mary needed a savior as much as anyone else and acknowledged this in Luke 1:47.*
- They believe that Mary is a co-redeemer with Jesus. In 1923, Pope Pius XI sanctioned Pope Benedict XV's (1914-1922) pronouncement that Mary suffered with Christ, and that with Him, she redeemed the human race. Pope Pius XI officially designated Mary the "Queen of Heaven" and "Queen of the World." *The Bible specifically states that Jesus is the only way to get to heaven. Nowhere in the Bible does it state that Mary is a co-redeemer. (John 14:6) God speaks out very clearly against the "Queen of Heaven". (Jeremiah 7:17-19)*
- They believe a baby can be "born again" through baptism by sprinkling, furthermore, they believe that baptism is necessary for salvation. *The issue of infant baptism is not mentioned in the Bible, nor does it mention anything about babies and salvation. We are all born with sin and that alone disqualifies us from getting to heaven. (Romans 3:23) The act of baptism in the Bible does not guarantee you a place in heaven or make you born again, rather it is an outward act of obedience to God after you have been saved.*
- They believe that Jesus merely made the way open for salvation. In order to enter into that salvation, one must live in obedience to the authority of the papacy. In addition, Jesus' provision for salvation not being complete, the Roman Catholic church offers other means to assure one's salvation. The Roman Catholic church says it alone can grant this essential blessing for full salvation. *This supersedes the Bible in which God guarantees our salvation. (John 10:27-29; Romans 10:9-17) Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a mechanic.*
- They believe that we are saved in part by good works and that good works are necessary for salvation. *The Bible says we are saved by grace through faith, not works. Good works come as a result of being saved. (Romans 3:24-28; Ephesians 2:8-9)*
- They believe there are different levels of sin; mortal (deadly) sins in which you are in danger of losing your salvation and venial (minor) sins which are not as serious. *Mankind has placed different distinctions on sin (i.e. someone caught lying is not punished as severely as a person who is a murderer). However, in God's eyes, sin is sin, there is no distinction. (Romans 3:23)*

Roman Catholicism makes salvation a long, complicated process with no assurance of eternal life and forgiveness of all sin. Baptism, Mass, Confession, prayers to Mary and the Saints, good works, and purgatory are all added to faith in Christ. By contrast, the Bible teaches salvation by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Bible salvation is God's free gift to any sinner who believes that Christ died for their sins and rose again for their defense.

Bible salvation gives immediate assurance of eternal life. No church ever saved anyone, but Christ can and will save everyone who will come and trust Him as their Saviour. Membership or faith in a church does not secure salvation for anyone, but **trust Christ and Him alone and you will be saved for all eternity!** Would you like to be saved?

Another site www.Jesus-is-Savior.com presents a strong case that the Roman Catholic Institution is a Cult!

Satanism In The Vatican!



"This cross is not broken, but turned upside down. It indicates the rejection of Jesus Christ and contempt for the gospel of salvation. Inverted symbols are typical of the opposite values pursued by Satanists. People who are sometimes sacrificed to Satan on Black Sabbath are crucified upside down in accordance with this tradition."

"...even now are there many antichrists..." —(1st John 2:18)

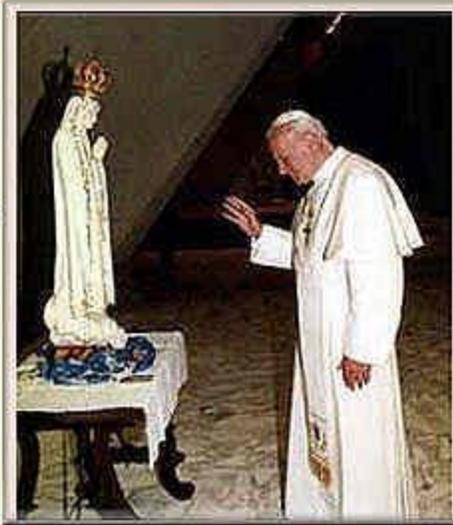
Below – a larger photo of the upside down cross is part of the pope's seat. Below this picture is two pictures of Pope John Paul II, holding the broken cross shepherd's staff. This is a Broken Cross meaning also called a Neronic Cross or a Stipe. The Broken Cross has Pagan roots, being the inverse of the Pythagorean symbol for life and Teutonic rune of death, and is vogue with Wiccans and Satanists. It can represent the antithesis of all that Christianity stands for. These explicit photos leave no question that the Roman Catholic Institution is not Christian. Satan long ago infiltrated the Roman Catholic church.





How Do You Obtain Salvation?

Not By Peter
Not By Mary
Not By Works
Not By Mass
Not By Sprinkling
Not By Church
Attendance
Not By Tithing
Not By Sabbath
Not By Penance
Not By Confession
Not By Last Rites



Not By Purgatory
Not By A Rosary
Not By Pilgrimages
Not By Law
Not By Poverty
Not By Meditation
Not By Catechisms
Not By Candles
Not By Holy Water
Not By Incense
Not By Water Baptism
Not By Devotion To Icons

Not By Repentance Of Sins

**"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?
And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and thou shalt be saved..." Acts 16:30-31 KJV**

In Part 15, I included an important piece of history, and it provides history speaking to the fact that the Roman Catholic Institution is Satanic and Antichrist to the core. I repeat it again for emphasis and validation that the Vatican is the Seat of Satan!

There is an interesting passage, albeit subtle, in the book of Revelation 2:13 that tell us the church of Pergamos is the place **"here Satan's seat is."** In a later part of Revelation 13:2 we find the answer to this cryptic phrase, **"where Satan's set is."** Note closely the words of these two passages in the book of Revelation. I don't have to exegete the Greek here to reveal any deeper meaning, it's explicitly obvious!

"I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth." -(Revelation 2:13).

"And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." -(Revelation 13:2).

Notice the interesting transposition of these two verses: 2:13 and 13:2. Is this not one of the most interesting revelations of Christ Jesus, Himself? Is there not a subtle bit of irony if not humor on the part of the Lord?

If you are not asking the question, "Where is the church of Pergamos today?" you should be. This has the most incredible answer! Rome acquired the city of Pergamos by decree of Attalus III, bequeathing his kingdom to the Roman Caesar. The priesthood of Pergamos moved to the new center on the Italian peninsula. Within the Pagan Roman Empire they were able to continue their ancient Chaldean practices.

John Walvoord, the deceased former Chancellor of Dallas Theological Seminary, writes in the 'Bible Knowledge Commentary', "when the teachers of the Babylonian mystery religions later moved from Pergamos to Rome, they were influential in paganizing Christianity and were the source of many so-called religions rites which have crept into ritualistic churches."

The Perga-menes worshipped a plethora of gods, including Dionysus, or Bacchus the god of wine, and a virgin goddess associated with secret fertility cult rituals, and an order of temple virgins (like nuns) who performed the services of religious prostitutes.

Protestants are woefully ignorant of church history, and non-Catholics are every bit as likely to be clinging to unscriptural tradition as Catholics are.

Early Christian history could deliver us from a lot of these traditions and teach us much about the apostles' understanding of "the faith."

Few people, however, like having their traditions challenged.

Because most people are ignorant of early Christian history—something that was not true of Martin Luther and John Calvin—we have been deceived into believing that Catholic claims about "the church fathers" are true.

The Roman Catholic Church does study and promote early Christian history. Non-Catholics, not knowing history themselves, believe Roman Catholic claims, such as that the "early" fathers worshipped liturgically, elevated the sacraments the way Roman Catholicism does, and had a hierarchy of priests, bishops, archbishops, and a pope.

The claims of Roman Catholicism to be the only true descendants of the apostles are not true, and contrary to the accusation of the Catholics.

Perhaps the most quoted early father in defense of a pope in the early churches was Cyprian, the head pastor of the church in Carthage. Yet, when Stephen, bishop of Rome, made a claim that he was a bishop over other bishops, Cyprian called a council of 87 North African bishops specifically to deny his claim. Roman Catholic Church authors neglect to tell you that Cyprian believed all bishops were the successor of Peter together, representing one united

"episcopal throne" (On the Unity of the Church 4-5). Instead, they quote his comments about Peter as though he meant the bishop of Rome.

Cyprian was overseer ["bishop" in Greek, *"episkopos"*, literally means overseer or supervisor] of Carthage from 249 to 258 A.D.. He belongs to a period 200 years after the apostles, and he was one of the first to refer to elders as priests (which may have as much to do with his writing in Latin as with his theology). But to him, and to all the bishops of North Africa, there was no pope, not even 200 years after the apostles.

It's worse for the Roman Catholic case earlier in Christian history, but I'll leave that for pages devoted to that subject. The city of Rome became the dominant head of the early Church strictly due to geographic location. Bishops gathered yearly to convene discussions of the general church, and so, Rome was chosen because of its central location of the many bishops.

The Scriptures and earliest Christian history know of churches, not a church marked by an extra-local hierarchy and a worldwide organization. Those churches were united, cooperative and "catholic," but they did not have an organization over them. This is why in A.D. 210, 150 years after the apostles, Tertullian was able to say:

"Is it likely that so many churches, and they so great, should have gone astray into one and the same faith? Nothing spread among many men results in one and the same result. Error of doctrine in the churches must necessarily have produced various issues. When, however, that which is deposited among many is found to be one and the same, that is not a result of error, but tradition." (Prescription Against Heretics 28)

Tertullian could not have said this if a hierarchy existed that could dictate doctrine to all the churches. If such a hierarchy, or a pope, existed, then "so many" and "so great" churches could easily have gone astray into one and the same erroneous faith. Tertullian said that "so many" (and "so great") churches could not have gone into error. If all those churches got their doctrine from one church, the church in Rome, or from one man, the bishop of Rome, then they all would go into error if the one church or one man went into error.

It's important to distinguish between the centuries of the early church when it comes to Roman Catholicism. The authority of the most important bishops increased rapidly in the early churches. At the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325 (the fourth century), the bishops of Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch were given authority over very large geographical areas, though the exact area is only specified in the case of the bishop of Alexandria (Council of Nicea, Canon 6). During that period, the emperor Constantine led a majority of the Roman population into the church. Large churches consisting of vast majorities of the citizenry meant that the importance of the clergy increased greatly. Government involvement in the church, as well as the battle over the Arian Controversy, led to increasing organization between the churches of the empire.

The second century shows no such organization. In the second century, head pastors objected to being told what to do by other head pastors. In fact, that complaint carries on into the third and somewhat into the fourth centuries. Metropolitans existed in the third century. Those were bishops of larger cities who had oversight over surrounding towns. However, every time a bishop of Rome, or Alexandria, or Nicomedia tried to force another bishop to submit, the attempt to rule was denied.

It is not until the sixth century, due to complicated political reasons, that a Roman bishop ever exercised what we know as papal power.

Amazingly, the best and clearest explanation of those politics and why there was no pope until the sixth century is given by a Roman Catholic Ph.D., Brendon McGuire, on a Roman Catholic web site, in a free, downloadable history lesson! He states quite clearly in the question and answer section that the eastern churches have never, not at any time in history, acknowledged the authority of the bishop of Rome. The doctrine of the papacy has always been a doctrine of the Roman bishop only!

Judging Roman Catholicism by its fruit we have looked at the claims of the Roman Catholics that the Papacy goes back to the apostles, and it's covered much more thoroughly in the links below, but Jesus said to judge by fruit. A tree that produces good fruit is good, and a tree that produces bad fruit is a bad tree.

In the case of Roman Catholicism, we have centuries of fruit to examine. For centuries, virtually everyone in Europe embraced the claims of the Roman Catholic Church and the pope. What was the result?

The result was that a period of history that we know as "The Dark Ages." The corruption was so bad that Philip Schaff tells us that when Pope Leo IX tried to reform the priesthood in 1049 A.D., they found that enforcing their reforms "would well-nigh deprive the churches, especially those of Rome, of their shepherds" (*History of the Christian Church*, vol. V, p. 13).

Those reforms were directed against "simony," the purchase of the position of priest or bishop, and against priests keeping a "housekeeper," who was really a wife that the priest could not admit he had. Thus, Schaff is telling us that almost every priest in the eleventh century, especially those in Rome, had purchased his position with money and kept a concubine!

Such corruption is hardly unknown to the public. We all know it, the Roman Catholic Church does not deny it, and much more corruption is documented in the history found in the links below.

During the Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church kept the Scriptures away from commoners, claiming that they could not understand them and that the people should rely upon the Church to interpret the Scriptures for them. Worse, when education began to increase and the people stopped meekly submitting to the tyranny of the pope, the Roman

Catholic Church began putting to death those that dared to translate the Scriptures into the vernacular, the language of the people. William Tyndale is one such example, but John Wycliffe is a worse one. The rage of the "Church" was so great that they dug his body up long after he was dead and burned his bones!

Protestants, too, have been guilty of persecuting their enemies. John Calvin himself and Martin Luther's friend, Philip Melancthon, were directly involved in directing the secular government in torturing or killing their opponents.

But the Lutheran and Reformed (Calvinist) Churches don't claim to be the one true church, nor demand that every Christian submit to their "magisterium," the officers of their organization. The Roman Catholic Church does!

There's a reason that Jesus said to judge by fruit. Follow a prophet if you want to be like him. Follow Jesus because you want to be like him. If you listen to a teacher or prophet, you will become like that teacher or prophet.

We have seen what happens when people listen to the demands of Roman Catholicism. The result is known to us as "The Dark Ages," and it involves gross ignorance, superstition, an orchestrated famine of the Word of God, extreme corruption among leaders, tyranny, and extreme punishment (reference and reference) for rebelling against the tyrants.

If that is what you consider good fruit, then make the tree good. Call Roman Catholicism good. If that is what you consider to be bad fruit, then make the tree bad. Call Roman Catholicism bad. As I said earlier in this article, the study of Church History will go a long way in settling this issue whether the Roman Catholic Institution is a "church" or a "cult"!

The ongoing scandal grows by the day. A priest with multiple allegations of sexual abuse dating back decades has returned to active ministry, even though a legal case against him is now in court.

The diocese of Buffalo, which reinstated Fr. Dennis Riter this past June to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish in Dunkirk, has now been sued by one of Riter's alleged victims, Matthew Golden. The diocese maintains that decades-old allegations against Riter were unsubstantiated, but Golden's lawsuit filed Aug. 30 cites one case, which was documented in 1992.

The lawsuit says the diocese received in May 1992 "a letter from a student at Christ the King Seminary reporting that he witnessed Fr. Riter sexually abusing a 6-year-old boy at Queen of All Saints Church" where Riter was pastor.

'Church Militant' has a copy of this letter by the "student," Wieslaw Walawender, who was assigned to Riter's parish for pastoral ministry at the time of the incident. The letter recounts the incident and asks that a meeting be set up to discuss the allegations in greater detail.

Riter's alleged 6-year-old victim, who was mentioned in the lawsuit, told his story August 22, 2018 to 'Church Militant' on camera. Walawender — at the time — was a 26-year-old third-year seminarian from Poland studying to be a priest for the diocese of Buffalo. After Walawender blew the whistle on Riter, his vocation to the priesthood was derailed by the diocese.

This is but one more case that has helped push New York's attorney general to open its own Pennsylvania-style grand jury probe into the cover-up of clerical sex abuse in the state's eight dioceses. The announcement came Thursday that New York and New Jersey would both be launching similar investigations. New Mexico announced Wednesday that it's now investigating the Catholic dioceses within its borders. This brings the number of states having attorney generals investigating clerical sex abuse to eight.

Following upon revelations regarding homosexual abuse committed by the ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, and the shocking details made in the Pennsylvania grand jury investigation of clerical sex abuse, the Lepanto Institute took out radio ads in New York. The 60-second radio spot asks what Cardinal Timothy Dolan knew about the scandals and calls upon him to "stop hiding the truth" and to "release all documents pertaining to predatory priests."

The \$25,000 radio spot, which was paid for by donors upset by Cardinal Dolan's mishandling of sexual misconduct by priests in New York, ran during primetime talk radio programs for the past two weeks.

Just as the time period of the ad was coming to a close, New York Attorney General Barbara Underwood filed subpoenas with all eight of the Catholic dioceses in New York, requesting all documents regarding sex abuse allegations against Catholic clergy, including pay-outs and internal investigations.

"The Pennsylvania grand jury report shined a light on incredibly disturbing and depraved acts by Catholic clergy, assisted by a culture of secrecy and cover-ups in the dioceses," Underwood stated. "Victims in New York deserve to be heard as well and we are going to do everything in our power to bring them the justice they deserve."

A spokesman for the archdiocese of New York said that they are "eager" to work with the attorney general's office on the investigation. Joseph Zwilling, the director of communications for the archdiocese, said, *"Since 2002, the archdiocese has shared with its 10 District Attorneys all information they have sought concerning allegations of sexual abuse of minors, and has established excellent working relationships with each of them."*

'Church Militant's' Christine Niles, speaking on the latest episode of The Download, expressed concern over at least one New York district attorney's possible handling of this investigation owing to her botched investigation of homosexual priest Fr. Peter Miqueli. The Bronx district attorney, Darcel Clark, cleared Fr. Miqueli of criminal charges after parishioners filed a lawsuit against Cardinal Dolan and the archdiocese.

"I don't think [The Bronx district attorney] can be trusted because she essentially cleared [Fr. Miqueli]," Niles said. "There's evidence that he embezzled hundreds of thousands, possibly a million dollars — and they have the bank statements! As far as we know, she never interviewed Miqueli's brothers ... she never interviewed the parishioners who were suing." "Catholics must remember that the real issue at the heart of this scandal is the network of homosexual priests in the Catholic Church."

After Underwood announced the subpoenas, Cardinal Dolan told a local CBS affiliate that he encouraged transparency, saying, *"I really worry about a loss of credibility, a loss of trust. There's no use denying it. We can't sugarcoat this, this is disastrous."*

Michael Hichborn, founder and president of the Lepanto Institute, told 'Church Militant' that Cardinal Dolan should have acted prior to the subpoenas.

"We know that Catholics have been calling the archdiocese for the past two weeks, as our ad suggested, demanding the release of information regarding sexually deviant priests," Hichborn said. "If Cardinal Dolan is so concerned about transparency and credibility, then why did it take an investigation from the attorney general's office to get him to act?"

Shortly after the subpoenas were issued in New York the state of New Jersey announced its own investigation. New Mexico announced one the day before.

Last week, 'Church Militant' detailed the pipeline of homosexual seminarians that were brought up from South America to New Jersey and spread throughout the East Coast. And this past June, Hichborn conducted an investigation into an association of priests promoting homosexuality at an annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"Catholics must remember that the real issue at the heart of this scandal is the network of homosexual priests in the Catholic Church," Hichborn said. "Until there is a complete investigation of homosexuals active in the priesthood, and they are all removed from public ministry, this scandal will only continue."

