

BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY AND ROMAN CATHOLICISM CONTRASTED

INGREDIENTS OF BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

Kinds of Christians according to the Bible:

- elders/bishops (1 Timothy 3:2)
- deacons (1 Timothy 3:8)
- ordinary brothers & sisters in Christ (referred to as saints - Romans 12:13, Romans 15:26, Romans 16:15, etc.)

Ordinances mentioned in the New Testament:

- Baptism (for those who are already saved, symbolic of the cleansing of sin the Holy Spirit does when God saves a person - Eph 5:26 & Ezek 36:25-27)
- Communion (for true saved Christians only, symbolic only, NOT a sacrifice - 1 Cor 11:25, Heb 10:10-12)

The head of the true Christian Church on earth:

Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:18)

God's biblical requirements for salvation:

1. **Repentance:** Recognition that you are a hopelessly lost, hell deserving sinner who needs to be rescued from God's wrath yet realizing that you could never pay for or even contribute to your own salvation (Isaiah 64:6, Jeremiah 59:2, Romans 3:10&23, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5).
2. **Belief:** faith in the complete and all sufficient sacrifice of Christ at Calvary, and that one-time sacrifice alone, to pay for all a person's sins, past, present, and future (John 19:30, Romans 5:1, Hebrews 10:10-12, Romans 8:1, 1 John 1:7, 1 John 5:13).
3. **Regeneration:** spiritual birth by impartation of the Holy Spirit as a supernatural work of God's *grace* - His unearned and undeserved favor (Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 11:19, Romans 8:15, John 3:3, 1 Peter 1:23).

Evidence of true salvation is a changed attitude about sin as described by the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-24 and a desire to warn the lost to flee the wrath of God (1 Corinthians 9:16, 2 Corinthians 5:20) and a love for Biblical truth (Psalms 1:2).

The Bible's 10 commandments:

(according to Exodus 20:3-17)

1. thou shalt have no other gods before me
2. **thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image nor bow down to them**
3. thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain
4. keep the sabbath day holy
5. honor thy father and mother
6. thou shalt not kill
7. thou shalt not commit adultery
8. thou shalt not steal
9. thou shalt not bear false witness
10. thou shalt not covet (Rome split this commandment into 2 after they threw out the 2nd commandment so they could get their followers to buy their statues)

Final authority for a Christian according to the Bible:

the Bible alone
(Psalms 138:2,
2 Timothy 3:16,
2 Peter 1:20)

Classes of sins:

God has no classifications. He hates all sins - no matter how trivial men may think them to be (Psalms 119:104). And yet, through Christ, God has forgiven all kinds of sins of those He came to save.

INGREDIENTS OF ROMAN CATHOLICISM

Kinds of Catholics:

popes, cardinals, archbishops, bishops, priests, monks, nuns, deacons, eucharistic ministers, altar boys, Jesuits, Blue Army nuns, Sisters of Charity, Carmelites, Knights of Columbus, dead saints, laity

Ordinances taught by Rome:

- Baptism (primarily for infants, the ordinance itself is supposed to contribute to one's salvation)
- The Mass (the communion wafer supposedly literally turns into Jesus' body and blood)
- Confirmation (for virtually all Catholic children at about age 12 or 13)
- Last Rites (some things a priest does before you die that supposedly gets you ready for heaven)

The head of the Roman Church: the pope

Rome's unbiblical requirements for salvation:

1. allegiance to the authority and teachings of the Catholic Church (even if they contradict the Bible)
2. prayers of others for your departed soul
3. sacrament of baptism (a.k.a. christenings)
4. sacrament of confirmation
5. confessing sins to a man
6. participation in sacrament of communion
7. sacrament of last rites
8. praying repetitious prayers (the Rosary, etc.)
9. praying to dead saints
10. use of holy water
11. wearing medallions
12. owning, displaying and bowing down to statues
13. performing the stations of the cross
14. owning, wearing and bowing down to crucifixes
15. owning, displaying and praying to holy pictures
16. making the sign of the cross
17. going to mass on Sundays and holy days
18. being a good person (trying to keep the Catholic version of the 10 commandments)
19. believing in Jesus the way that the Catholic Church prescribes
20. devotion to Mary as mediator and co-redeemer
21. belief in immaculate conception of Mary
22. belief in the bodily assumption of Mary to heaven
23. spending time in a non-existent place called purgatory
24. going on pilgrimages to Lourdes, Rome, and elsewhere
25. fasting
26. wearing ashes
27. lighting candles

Rome's 10 commandments:

(according to the Catholic Catechism)

1. thou shalt have no other gods before me
2. thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain
3. keep the sabbath day holy
4. honor thy father and mother
5. thou shalt not kill
6. thou shalt not commit adultery
7. thou shalt not steal
8. thou shalt not bear false witness
9. **thou shalt not covet** thy neighbor's wife
10. **thou shalt not covet** thy neighbor's goods

Final authority for a Catholic according to the Vatican:

Council of Trent, Vatican I & II Councils, other councils, Decrees of Popes, The Baltimore Catechism, The Catechism Of The Catholic Church - 1994, and other Catechisms

Classes of sins:

- mortal - you go to hell if you commit one of these and die without feeling truly sorry about it.
- venial - not considered a serious sin (It is the Catholic church's job to determine which sins fall into the 2 categories)