# The Cult of ROMAN CATHOLICISM

**(A Religion of Substitutes & Counterfeits)**

Introduction:

We must love Catholics. We cannot love the error they teach & practice.

Catholicism began with Emperor Constantine who allegedly saw a "sign" of the cross in the sky and was told "By this sign conquer."

"Christianity" then was to be forced upon the consciences of the whole world ("Catholic" = Universal)

Christianity was merged with paganism into a state religion around 315 A.D.

True Bible believing christians had no part in this pagan church-state religion.
Because of their refusal to be identified with Catholicism, they became persecuted and many martyred by the Catholic inquisitions.

Why are many evangelical christians reluctant to call the Roman Catholic Church a Cult?

Catholicism is often NOT called a cult because...

1) Roman Catholicism is a large religion

   980 million Catholics worldwide.
   Smallness or largeness does not determine whether a religious group is cultic; Doctrine & practice does!
   To be in the majority is to be on the road to destruction (Matt.7:13)

2) Roman Catholicism officially affirms some major Bible Doctrines.

   a. The Trinity (Yet Mary & the saints are practically deified by their veneration)
   b. The deity of Christ (Yet Mary is a "co-mediatrix" & "co-redemptrix")
   c. The virgin Birth (Yet they add that Mary was also of "immaculate conception")
   d. The death & resurrection of Christ (Yet Catholicism fails to see Christ's work as finished & sufficient for salvation)

3) Roman Catholicism is wealthy, powerful, & intimidating

   Many fear to call her what she is because of the power & influence she wields.

4) Roman Catholicism claims to be a Christian religion
   (Yet so do the Mormons, Moonies, JW's and Christian science etc.)

5) Roman Catholicism takes a similar position on some moral issues

   (Ex. Anti-Abortion; Euthanasia etc. However, many, many unbelievers recognize the sanctity of human life. For such social causes we stand with them; when it comes to Bible Doctrine & practice we must separate)

6) Roman Catholicism has existed for many centuries.

   (The age of a religion does not determine its genuineness or truthfulness; ex. Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism have been around for a long time also)

   a. Catholicism's pagan rituals had no part in 1st century christianity.

   b. Catholicism's doctrines & practices have changed with time & location (This religion changes color like the chameleon)

*** Catholicism is the largest, most dangerous & deceptive cult to ever exist!**

It bears all the marks of a cult.
"No cult demands surrender of mind and conscience more arrogantly than Roman Catholicism." Dave Hunt

A Substitute/Counterfeit
# AUTHORITY

| *ROMAN CATHOLICISM* | *BIBLE CHRISTIANITY* |
|---|---|
| **The Bible (with added Books);**<br>**Church Tradition;**<br>**The Decrees of the Pope;**<br>**New Revelations;**<br><br>The Apocryphal Books were added to the Bible by the Council of Trent (1546 A.D.)<br>(Note: Prov. 30:6; Rev.22:18,19)<br><br>Tradition is declared of equal authority with the Bible by the Council of Trent (1545 A.D.)<br>(Note: Matthew 15:8,9)<br><br>Infallibility of the pope in matters of faith and morals proclaimed by the First Vatican Council (1870 A.D.) | **The BIBLE only**<br><br>II Timothy 3:16 - *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"*<br>(Compare Isaiah 8:20; II Jn.10)<br><br>The Bible Alone...<br>is absolute truth (Jn.17:17)<br>is living, powerful & sharp (Heb 4:12)<br>gives the New Birth (I Peter 1:23)<br>give faith (Rom.10:17)<br>will last forever (Mt.24:35) |

A Substitute/Counterfeit
# CHURCH FOUNDATION

| *ROMAN CATHOLICISM* | *BIBLE CHRISTIANITY* |
|---|---|
| **Peter**<br>A succession of Popes was said to begin with Peter, upon whom the true Holy Roman Catholic Church was built.<br><br>The first Catholic to be named "Pope" was Boniface III in 610 A.D. | **Jesus Christ**<br>Christ, not Peter (*Petros*), is the Rock (*Petra*) upon which the true church is built. (Matthew 16:18)<br><br>Peter never calls himself a "Pope" but an Apostle (I Peter 1:1) and an Elder (I Peter 5:1-4)<br><br>I Cor.3:11 - No other Foundation than Christ<br>I Cor.10:4 - The Rock was Christ<br>Eph.2:20 - Jesus...the chief corner stone |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# FATHER

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|
| **Pope & Priests**<br>The Pope (Father) and Priests are referred to as "Father" (identifying him as an authoritative teacher of truth) | **God alone**<br>Matthew 23:9 - *"And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."* (Compare Isaiah 9:6) |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# TEACHER

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|
| **The Pope via the Catholic Church**<br>The Roman Catholic Church alone has the ability and authority to teach God's Word.<br><br>The Pope is the Vicar (substitute) for Christ<br><br>Vatican II (1962-65) states repeatedly that only Catholicism's hierarchy can interpret the Bible, and that Papal pronouncements must be obeyed without question. | **The Holy Spirit**<br>The Holy Spirit alone has the ability and authority to teach God's Word. He is best qualified since He is the Author of it! (II Pet.1:21)<br><br>The Holy Spirit has been sent In Christ's place (John 16:7-11)<br><br>The Spirit guides us into all truth (John 16:13-15)<br>The Bible is the "sword" of the Spirit (Eph.6:17)<br>One must be illuminated by the Spirit (Eph.1:17-18; I Cor.2:12-16) |
| | |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# PRIESTHOOD

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|
| **Ordained sinners**<br>Jesus Christ ordained the twelve apostles to the priesthood at the Last Supper and the powers of the priesthood were handed down during the past two thousand years. | **The sinless Jesus Christ**<br>The Old Testament Priesthood has been done away with by Christ. Christ alone is our sinless Highpriest (Heb.7:26)<br>Hebrews 2:17 - *"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."*<br>Hebrews 7:24-25 - *"But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."* |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# SACRIFICE

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|
| **Daily Mass & Holy Eucharist**<br><br>The Mass as a daily celebration was adopted in 394 A.D. It developed gradually as a sacrifice and attendance was made obligatory in the 11th. century. The dogma of transubstantiation was decreed by Pope Innocent III in 1215 A.D. and the adoration of the wafer (host) was decreed by Pope Honorius III in 1220 A.D. According to the Catholic Catechism the Daily Mass is "the unbloody sacrifice of the body and blood of Christ." | **Christ's once for all crucifixion**<br><br>Heb.9:12 - *"By his own blood he entered in <u>once</u> into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."*<br>Heb.9:26,28 - *"But now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of <u>himself</u>...so Christ was <u>once</u> offered to bear the sins of many"*<br>Heb.10:10,12,14 - *"We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ <u>once</u> for all...After he had offered <u>one</u> sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;...For by <u>one</u> offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."*<br><br>The "Lord's Supper" is a Picture of Christ's death and shed blood, and is to be done in memory of Him (I Cor.11:23-26), not to partake of Him. |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# MEDIATOR

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|
| **Mary & Saints & Angels**<br><br>Prayers began to be offered to Mary, dead saints, and angels in 600 A.D.<br><br>Pope Pius IX on September 30, 1852, granted 300 days Indulgence each time this prayer was repeated: "Sweet heart of Mary be my salvation."<br><br>Mary is called "co-mediatrix" Vatican II credits Mary with a perpetual "Salvific role; she continues to obtain by her constant intercession the graces we need for eternal salvation"<br><br>Different "saints" are prayed to depending on what one needs. | **Jesus Christ**<br><br>I Timothy 2:5- *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"*<br>Heb.7:25 - *"He ever liveth to make intercession for them"*<br>I John 2:1 - *"We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"*<br>Rom.8:34 - Christ *"maketh intercession for us"*<br>Rom.10:13 - *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the <u>Lord</u> shall be saved"* |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# NEW BIRTH

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|
| **Born Again through the WATERS of INFANT BAPTISM**<br><br>Being born again (John 3) is Baptism (Council of Trent)<br><br>"By the Sacrament of Baptism into the crucified and risen Christ, man is reborn to a sharing of the divine life" (Vatican II) | **Born Again through the HOLY SPIRIT & SCRIPTURES**<br><br>The reference to "water" in John 3:5 is NOT to Baptism but to the womb from which one experiences the first birth (a physical birth)<br><br>The New Birth is a sovereign work of the Holy Spirit accomplished through His Word - the Bible, whereby one is adopted into God's family by grace through faith.<br><br>*"...He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost"* (Titus 3:5)<br><br>*"Being born again...by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."* (I Peter 1:23)<br><br>*"But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God...born not of...the will of man, but of God"* (John 1:12,13) |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# BAPTISM

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|
| **Infants by sprinkling**<br><br>Through this baptism the infant is initiated into the Catholic Church and has his/her original sin washed away.<br><br>"The validity of infant baptism is a truth of faith, <u>not revealed in Scripture, but in tradition</u>." (Catholic Dictionary) | **Believers by immersion**<br><br>Baptism is for Believers only:<br>*"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"* (Mark 16:16)<br>*"They that gladly received his word were baptized"* (Acts 2:41)<br>*"When they believed...they were baptized, both men and women"* (Acts 8:12)<br>*"If you believe with all your heart, you may (be baptized)"* (Acts 8:37)<br><br>Baptism is by immersion only:<br>The word "Baptizo" means to dip, or submerge (Luke 16:24 "dip")<br>*"they went down both <u>into</u> the water...(and) were come up <u>out of</u> the water"* (Acts 8:38,39)<br><br>Baptism is a step of obedience, not to gain salvation, but to publicly show one's salvation (cp.I Cor. 1:17; Acts 10:47) |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# WORSHIP

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|
| **Rituals, Relics, and Statues**<br><br>Veneration of the cross, images, and relics authorized in 788 A.D. | **Worship in spirit and truth**<br><br>Worship is not according to man's tradition (Matt.15:8,9), nor confined to certain places but in "spirit and in truth" (John 4:21,24; cp.Acts 7:48-50; 17:24-26)<br><br>*"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them"* (Ex.20:4,5)<br>*"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images"* (Is.42:8, cp. Dt.4:16,23) |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# PRAYER

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|
| **Memorized Vain Repetitions**<br><br>"Our Fathers" & "Hail Marys" are repeated over and over again.<br>The rosary, or prayer beads (copied from Hindus and Mohammadans) was introduced by Peter the Hermit in 1090 A.D.<br><br>Collecting fees for Prayers for the Dead (Indulgences 1190 A.D. & Masses for the dead) | **Petitions from the heart**<br><br>*"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do"* (Matt.6:7)<br><br>*"But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money"* (Acts 8:20) |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# DEVOTION

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|
| **MARY first, then other saints**<br><br>The beginning of the exaltation of Mary, and the first use of the term "Mother of God" by the Council of Ephesus (431 A.D.) and reaffirmed by Pope Pius XI in 1931.<br>Mary was proclaimed the "Mother of the Church" by Pope Paul VI in 1965.<br>Mary is attributed with an immaculate conception, eternal virginity, and bodily assumption to Heaven; and is prayed to, worshipped, and adored. | **Jesus Christ**<br><br>*"I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed my these things. Then saith he unto me, see thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren...worship God"* (Rev.22:8,9)<br>*"And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man"* (Acts 10:25,26)<br>*"Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!"* (Matthew 12:47-50)<br>The seeds of Maryolotry began when *"a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."* (Luke 11:27-28)<br>Mary's one command was: *"Whatsoever He (Jesus) saith to you, do it."* (John 2:5) |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# SALVATION

| *ROMAN CATHOLICISM* | *BIBLE CHRISTIANITY* |
|---|---|
| **WORKS (via 7 sacraments)**<br><br>Baptism — Original sin cleansed<br><br>Confirmation — The Holy Spirit is received<br><br>Communion — Christ's body & blood received<br><br>Marriage — A blessed union of 2 Catholics<br><br>Penance — Confession to a Priest<br><br>Holy Orders — Priests are ordained to consecrate the Host and give absolution<br><br>Extreme Unction — The Last Rites are administered to prepare one for death | **GRACE (via Christ's sacrifice)**<br><br>Christ's one sacrifice paid it all.<br>*"Christ also hath <u>once</u> suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit"*<br>(I Peter 3:18)<br>*"It is finished"* (John 19:30)<br>*"For by one offering he hat <u>perfected for ever</u> them that are sanctified."* (Hebrews 10:14)<br>*"For by <u>grace</u> are ye saved though faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <u>not of works</u>, lest any man should boast."*<br>(Ephesians 2:8,9) |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# CONFESSION

| *ROMAN CATHOLICISM* | *BIBLE CHRISTIANITY* |
|---|---|
| **A Confessional Booth to receive a priest's absolution**<br><br>Confession of sins to the priest at least once a year was instituted by Pope Innocent III in the Lateran Council in 1215 A.D.<br><br>The Roman Catholic Church teaches that her priests exercise the power of forgiving sins by hearing the confession of sins and granting pardon for them as ministers of God and in His name. | **The throne of grace to receive God's forgiveness**<br><br>*"We have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession...Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*<br>(Hebrews 4:14,16)<br><br>*"Who can forgive sins, but God only"* (Mark 2:7)<br>*"Repent...and pray to God"* (Acts 8:22)<br>*"He is faithful and just to forgive"* (I John 1:9; cp.2:1 -"advocate") |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# CLEANSING FROM SIN

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|
| **PURGATORY**<br><br>The doctrine of "Purgatory" (to be purged from sin) was first established by Gregory the Great in 593 A.D. This doctrine was proclaimed a dogma by the Council of Florence in 1439 A.D.<br><br>"Purgatory is a state in which those suffer for a time who die guilty of venial sins, or without having satisfied for the punishment due to their sins." (Catholic Catechism) | **CHRIST'S BLOOD**<br><br>*"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission"* (Hebrews 9:22)<br>*"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* (Hebrews 9:14)<br>*"...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin"* (I John 1:7)<br>*"...purifying their hearts by faith"* (Acts 15:9)<br>*"Now no condemnation"* (Rom.8:1)<br>*"He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."* (John 5:24) |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# Virgin Birth/Sinless life/Ascension

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|
| **Mary & Jesus**<br><br>Immaculate Conception of Mary This doctrine maintains that the Virgin Mary was in the first instance of her conception, preserved from all stain of original sin and was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854<br><br>The Catholic Church teaches that Mary remained sinless all her life.<br><br>The dogma of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (the belief that Mary ascended bodily into heaven without dying) was proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950. | **Jesus only**<br><br>Only Jesus was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Mt.1:23) and immaculately conceived. Only Jesus was sinless (I John 3:5; II Cor.6:21; Heb.7:26; I Pet.1:19) Mary was a sinner who needed a "Savior" (Luke 1:47); required the ceremony of purification like all Hebrew women (Luke 2:22) and was corrected by Jesus on several occasions (John 2:4; Lk. 11:27-28; 8:19-21).<br><br>Jesus ascended to heaven (Acts 1:9); Mary was last mentioned in the upper room waiting for the Holy Spirit like the rest of the disciples (Acts 1:14) |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# REVELATION

| *ROMAN CATHOLICISM* | *BIBLE CHRISTIANITY* |
|---|---|
| **Mary gives revelation at Fatima** | **The Bible is God's only source of Revelation. The last one who saw a Revelation was John who wrote the book - Revelation**<br><br>**II Tim.4:3-4** |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# CLERGY

| *ROMAN CATHOLICISM* | *BIBLE CHRISTIANITY* |
|---|---|
| **Pope/Cardinals/Bishops/Priest** | **Evangelists/Pastor-teachers** (Eph.4:11-12) |

A Substitute/Counterfeit

# Fund Raising Technique

| *ROMAN CATHOLICISM* | *BIBLE CHRISTIANITY* |
|---|---|
| **Bingo; "Las Vegas Night"; Lotteries; etc.** | **Only Free-will offerings support God's work**<br><br>John 2:15-16 |

**Can we join Catholics in ecumenical efforts?**

ex. Billy Graham
ex. The charismatic movement; tongues a unifying factor
ex. Evangelicals and Catholics Together; by Chuck Colson

God says: *"Come out from among them"*

**How should we witness to catholics?**

1. Be Loving
   (Catholics are not our enemy; they are victims of the enemy)
   Build a bridge; A relationship.

2. Be Personal
   (Share your testimony)

3. Be Enthusiastic

4. Be Focused
   (Emphasize the "finished" substitutionary death of Christ)

   Show your catholic friend that:
   Salvation is completely paid for by Christ
   Salvation is a free gift
   Salvation is only through a personal relationship with Christ

5. Be Patient
   (Don't force a decision; They have prayed prayers all their lives)

# The Cult of ROMAN CATHOLICISM

**(A Religion of <u>Substitutes</u> & <u>Counterfeits</u>)**



Introduction:

*** Catholicism is the largest, most dangerous & deceptive cult to ever exist!**

It bears all the marks of a cult.

| *ROMAN CATHOLICISM* | *BIBLE CHRISTIANITY* |
|---|---|

A Substitute/Counterfeit **AUTHORITY**

| | |
|---|---|
| The Bible (with added Books, Tradition, Revelations) | The BIBLE only |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **CHURCH FOUNDATION**

| | |
|---|---|
| Peter | Jesus Christ |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **FATHER**

| | |
|---|---|
| Pope & Priests | God alone |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **TEACHER**

| | |
|---|---|
| The Pope via the Catholic Church | The Holy Spirit |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **PRIESTHOOD**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ordained sinners | The sinless Jesus Christ |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **SACRIFICE**

| | |
|---|---|
| Daily Mass & Holy Eucharist | Christ's once for all crucifixion |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **MEDIATOR**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mary & Saints & Angels | Jesus Christ |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **NEW BIRTH**

| | |
|---|---|
| Born Again through the WATERS of INFANT BAPTISM | Born Again through the HOLY SPIRIT & SCRIPTURES |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **BAPTISM**

| | |
|---|---|
| Infants by sprinkling | Believers by immersion |

| ROMAN CATHOLICISM | BIBLE CHRISTIANITY |
|---|---|

A Substitute/Counterfeit **WORSHIP**

| | |
|---|---|
| Rituals, Relics, and Statues | Worship in spirit and truth |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **PRAYER**

| | |
|---|---|
| Memorized Vain Repetitions | Petitions from the heart |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **DEVOTION**

| | |
|---|---|
| MARY first, then other saints | Jesus Christ |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **SALVATION**

| | |
|---|---|
| WORKS (via 7 sacraments) | GRACE (via Christ's sacrifice) |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **CONFESSION**

| | |
|---|---|
| A Confessional Booth<br>to receive a priest's absolution | The throne of grace<br>to receive God's forgiveness |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **CLEANSING FROM SIN**

| | |
|---|---|
| PURGATORY | CHRIST'S BLOOD |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **Virgin Birth/Sinless life/Ascension**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mary & Jesus | Jesus only |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **REVELATION**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mary gives revelation at Fatima | The Bible is God's only source of Revelation |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **CLERGY**

| | |
|---|---|
| Pope/Cardinals/Bishops/Priest | Evangelists/Pastor-teachers |

A Substitute/Counterfeit **Fund Raising Technique**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bingo; "Las Vegas Night"; Lotteries; etc. | Only Free-will offerings support God's work John 2:15-16 |