

Roman Catholicism

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CAN A MINISTER OF GOD FORGIVE SINS?

John 20:23. "Whosoever sins you remit."

"Forgive." (Douay, Phillips, N.E.B.) This statement is found only once in the Bible. It is dangerous to base a doctrine on one text. We must compare Scripture with Scripture.

Luke 24:33. This is the same occasion.

Luke 24:46-48. "Repentance and remission (forgiveness) of sins should be preached in His Name." Saint Peter Explains.

Acts 2:38. Acts 10:34, 42, 43.

Jeremiah 1:10. God set Jeremiah to pull down and destroy kingdoms. Yet Jeremiah never broke down a single building. Jeremiah obeyed God and preached the warning, unpopular message. The rejection of Jeremiah's message led to the downfall of the rejectors. God put it to Jeremiah's account as if he had done it. By preaching and showing people the way to have their sins forgiven, God gives you the credit for the forgiveness of their sins.

James 5:20. "He that converts the sinner from the error of his way . . . shall hide a multitude of sins." "Cover a host of sins." Goodspeed. "Throw a veil over countless sins." T.C.N.T. You lead a soul to conversion, God gives you the credit and reward for converting a soul and for the forgiveness of their sins.

Revelation 12:14. "Here are they that keep the commandments of God." Only through the power of God and Christ in the life, can this be so, yet God gives us the full credit for keeping the commandments. Only through Christ's power can we keep the commandments. Only through Christ can a soul be won. Only through Christ can sins be forgiven yet we get the full credit. What a wonderful God we serve.

Note these Bible Facts.

1. Jesus never told any person to go to a priest for forgiveness.
2. St. Peter, St. Paul etc. never permitted any saint or sinner to confess their sins to them.
3. It is God's law that has been broken, so confess to God.
4. 1 Timothy 2:5. "There is one Mediator between God and man." Then why go to a priest?
5. Acts 8:22. St. Peter said "Pray God" for forgiveness.
6. Matthew 27:3-5. This is the only record in the Bible of a man who confessed his sins to a priest. He then hanged himself.

1 John 1:9. Confess to God and He will abundantly pardon. Confess to an earthly judge and you will get a conviction.

2 Samuel 12:13. Immediate pardon.

Matthew 9: 5-7. "The Son of Man hath power to forgive sins." He proved His power.

OBEYING THE WORD OF GOD

“Religion and Life.”

The Ten Commandments established a moral code of the Old Testament, and their binding force under the New Law is specifically stated by Christ.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ declared: “Do you think that I have come to set aside the Law and Prophecy; I have not come to set them aside but to bring them to perfection.

“Believe me, heaven and earth must disappear sooner than one jot, one flourish disappear from the Law. It must all be accomplished.

“Whoever then sets aside one of these Commandments, though it were the least, and teaches men to do the like, will be of least account in the Kingdom of Heaven. But the man who keeps them, and teaches others to keep them, will be accounted in the Kingdom of Heaven as the greatest.”

Mankind is created by God according to a plan in the divine intelligence. Man fulfils that plan when he lives according to the Ten Commandments.

Not man - not even God Himself can destroy these precepts.

Christ came “not to set them aside, but to bring them to perfection.” They are the supreme test of loyalty: “If any man loves Me he will keep My Commandments.

Sun-Herald - June 25, 1961, Sydney.
By Father Phillip O'Donnell

HOW TO WIN ROMAN CATHOLICS

Catholics are not hard to win if you can get the Bible open with them. We win more people from the Catholic Church than from any other religion. A quarter of our population are Catholics, so here is a vast field of labor. You must get the Bible open with them. Remember, the Bible “is our only source of power.” Desire of Ages, page 390.

The Church

They claim that the Church, not the Bible, is their source of authority. Therefore inquire: “Tell me about your Church. Where did it originate? etc. They will quote “Thou art Peter” etc.

“How do you know Christ said that,” They will have to go to the Bible to find the answer. “Therefore you go to the Bible for your foundation.” (No person can prove Christ said that “Thou art Peter,” etc. except by going to the Bible.

If they claim the Bible has mistakes, how can they prove this text “Thou art Peter,” etc. is not a mistake? It is only found once in Scripture. Really, to establish their Church they must prove the Bible is the Word of God. That it is infallible, unerring! The Bible must be above the Church, because it and it alone, provides a foundation for the Church.

I Keep The Same Sabbath as The Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Blessed Virgin Mary kept the Seventh-day Sabbath your own Bible says so. She never kept Sunday holy. Bring out your Bible and I will show you this.

Now, could I be wrong in doing what the Blessed Virgin Mary did? Could I? I do what she did and you don't. I'm a better Catholic than you.

Luke 23:52-56. “And the women also, which came with Him from Galilee, followed after.” (Every Catholic will agree that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was at the cross). “They rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment.”

1. The Blessed Virgin Mary kept the Sabbath.
2. She kept the Ten Commandments.
3. She would have been a sinner if she had not.
4. "Sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4.

AIDS IN WINNING CATHOLICS

In general use, the same order of studies with Roman Catholics, as you use for other peoples. They know little of the Bible, so don't raise many arguments.

1. Heaven is a good subject to start with. (See "The Glory Land," Burnside Bible Lessons).
2. Where are the Dead?
3. What is the Soul? (Burnside Bible Lessons). These subjects interest Catholics and bring relief from the thought of purgatory, limbo and hell. These subjects also knock out Catholicism's power. Do not criticize the Catholic Church even if they do. Let truth expose error.

USE THE KING JAMES VERSION

Do not use the Douay Version unless they insist on its use. If the question is raised as to which is the best translation, open the Bible to the front page. A. V. "Translated out of the Original Tongues. (Now note the contrast.) Douay - "Translated from the Latin Vulgate." The more it is translated from one language to another the greater the danger of error.

An interesting note: "The Latin text (Vulgate) contained many errors. Great Controversy page 245. The King James or Authorized Version, (A.V.) is the best known and best loved. Use it. (See "Why 1 use the King James Version in Soul Winning.")

An Example:-

1 Corinthians 15:51 (A.V.) "But we shall all be changed." Douay - "We shall not all be changed." Knox, also from the Vulgate. 1 Corinthians 15:51. "but not all of us will undergo the change."

Knox footnote admits "The Greek manuscripts are here strangely divided but there is better support for the reading "We shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be change."

OUR MOTTO

What God unfolds we gladly teach. What God withholds we dare not preach. No opinions so fatally mislead us, as those that are not wholly wrong; as no watches so effectively deceive the weaver, as those that are sometimes right.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Manual of the Holy Catholic Church published 1906 by James J. Mc Govern (Eleven pages of commendatory testimonials by 27 leading Catholics of the world).

"God is unchangeable, always the same. God Himself says, "I am the Lord, and 1 change not. Malachi 3:6." page 7.

"The doctrines of the church are unchangeable." page 131.

Q. What is the Law of God?

A. It is the manifestation of His will to man, declaring what He requires of man to do and to avoid, in order to please Him and save his own soul.

Q. In what light ought we to consider the law of God?

A. First, as our rule and guide, given to direct us in our pilgrimage through the wilderness of this

world, and to conduct us to true happiness both here and hereafter. Second, as our because it is by this law that we will be judged at the last day, and be either rewarded with eternal happiness, or condemned according as we have obeyed this law, or transgressed it in our present life.

Q. When did God give His law to man?

A. First, at the creation. He imprinted in the heart of man the sense of right and wrong, and gave him that inward monitor, his conscience, moving him to do the one and avoid the other. When the posterity of Abraham were grown into a great nation, and God took them under His particular protection. He made a second publication of His law to them.

Q. Where do we find the law of God clearly expressed?

A. In the Ten Commandments, Exodus 20.

Q. When were they given?

A. They were first given by the Almighty to the Israelites, through the ministry of Moses, and were after wards ratified and confirmed by Jesus Christ.

Q. Are we strictly obliged to obey the law of God as found in the Ten Commandments and the gospel?

A. Yes; First, God who is a lawgiver, is our sovereign Lord and Master, who created us and gave us all we are and all we have, consequently I we are wholly at His disposal I and therefore are strictly obliged to do whatever He requires of us. Second, We have seen above, that He has made our obedience to His law one essential condition of our salvation. "Third, because the Scripture assures us, that the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven, with the angels, of His power, in a flame of fire, yielding vengeance to them who know not God, and who obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall suffer eternal punishment in destruction. 2 Thessalonians 1: 7.

Q. Are we obliged to obey the whole law in order to be saved?

A. We are: for the Holy Scriptures say, "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, but offend in one point, is become guilty of all."

1 James 2: 10; that is, he becomes a transgressor of the law in such a manner, the observing of all the other points will not avail him to salvation." page 166. "By our own natural strength alone, without the help of God Is grace, we are not able to keep the commandments and God, who requires us to keep His commands, is never wanting on His part to give us sufficient grace for that purpose." Ibid.

NOTES ON THE FALLING AWAY

A. "Our present convenient compendiums - the Missal Breviary, and so on - were formed only at the end of a long evolution. In the first period (lasting perhaps till about the fourth century) there were no books except the Bible, from which lessons were read and Psalms were sung." "The Catholic Encyclopedia," Volume 11, page 296

B. "There was far more extensive and continuous use of Scripture in the public service of the early Church than there is among us." Catholic Dictionary, page 509.

C. "One is forced to admit that the gradual corruption of Christianity began very early." The Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume 12, page 414.

D. "The first mention of crucifixes are in the fifth century." Catholic Encyclopedia, page 667.

E. "Writers in the fourth century were prone to describe many practices as apostolic institutions which certainly had no claim to be so regarded." Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume 3, page 484.

F. "The use of holy water and incense (the latter originally used as a sort of disinfectant) was also no doubt suggested by the similar customs of pagan around them." Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume 3, page 76.

G. "To avoid even the appearance of idolatry no statues were placed in the early churches." Short History of the Catholic Church, page 65.

H. "The whole tradition of venerating holy image gradually and naturally developed." Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume 8, page 667.

I. “The word 'priest,' ‘Priesthood' are never applied in the New Testament to the offices of the Christian Ministry. All Christians are said to be priests.” 1 Peter 2:5-9, Revelation 5:10.” Catholic Dictionary, page 692.

J. “At the end of the second, or beginning of the third century, the term 'priest' was in common use.” Catholic Dictionary page 693.

K. “The cross is found in both pre-Christian and non Christian cultures; where it has largely a cosmic or natural significance.” New Catholic Encyclopedia, page 473.

L. “The swastika cross symbolizes the whirling sun. Ibid. page 473.

M. “The early Christians generally avoided representing the body of Christ on the cross, for the first evidence of such comes from the 5th century. In fact, until the 4th century even the simple cross rarely appeared in public.” Ibid. page 473.

N. “The cross, occasionally even the crucifix, was used for private devotion in the first three centuries. In the 4th century, however, the change occurred.” Ibid. page 475.

O. “The custom of portraying the Redeemer on the cross reaches as far back as the 6th century.”

P. “The cross first appeared on the altar table during the 13th century.” New Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume 5, page 485.

“The Bible is a dead a speechless book.” James Cardinal Gibbons. Question Box, page 47. 1 Peter 1:23. “The Word of God which lives and abides forever.”

Concerning 1 Corinthians 15:29, Cardinal Gibbons says - “No one knows with certainty what is meant by this obscure text of St. Paul.” Question Box, page 260. Therefore popes or priests are not infallible explainers of Scripture.

YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

Catholics have been taught that only the priest can understand the Scriptures. St. John 7:17. “If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine (teaching).” Obedience is the best commentary. Unwillingness to do “His will” automatically closes the Bible and it's truth to them. Many do not seek truth, but they seek an excuse to evade obedience.

Daniel 12:10. “None of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.” Note “the wise” are not contrasted with the unlearned or ignorant, but with the wicked.” It is a moral matter more than mental that counts.

The Bible Can Be Understood By Common People

1. The Bible is God's message to man. God created man Thus the Bible and the mind of man have the same Author. They are made for each other.

2. The Bible has universal appeal. The natives of New Guinea and the Solomon Islands can read and understand the Bible. “The common people heard Him gladly.”

3. 2 Timothy 3:15. “From a child thou has known the Holy Scriptures.” If a child can understand, so can an adult. Psalm 25:14. “The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.” Many make the Bible hard to be understood by disobedience or pride of intellectualism. It is not scholarship, but sincerity that opens the Word.

Matthew 11:25. “Jesus answered and said, “I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou has hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them unto babes. “ This is God's way. His truth is revealed to the childlike, the humble and sincere. It is revealed to those who desire the “sincere milk of the Word.”

Individuals Can Decide Truth. Our Supreme Courts are based on the judgment of laymen. The Jury system is based on individual judgment. The Jury men are not specially trained. So God expects individuals to decide and promises “If any man will he shall know.”

SAINT PETER'S INFALLIBLE TEACHINGS

Doctrine	Bible Verse
1. State of the Dead.	Acts 2:29, 34; 13:36
2. Resurrection.	Acts 2:27
3. New Earth.	Acts 3:21. 2 Peter 3:10-12
4. Hell.	2 Peter 3:7
5. Forgiveness of Sins	Acts 2:38
6. Baptism.	Acts 2:38
7. Jesus Our Redeemer.	Acts 2:32
8. Judgment.	Acts 10:42
9. New Birth.	1 Peter 1:3, 28
10. Second Advent.	1 Peter 1:7, 13
11. Christ the Creator.	Acts 4:10
12. Christ Our Only Savior.	Acts 4:12
13. The Rock was Christ, not Peter.	1 Peter 2:4, 6, 7
14. Peter was not a Pope.	Acts 10: 26
15. Priesthood of all Believers.	1 Peter 2:5, 9
16. God Hears Individual Prayer.	1 Peter 3:12
17. Christian Witnessing.	1 Peter 3:15
18. Nearness of the End.	1 Peter 4:7
19. Life of Prayer.	1 Peter 4:7
20. Existence of Satan.	1 Peter 5:8
21. Fallen Angels.	2 Peter 2:4
22. Rome is Babylon.	1 Peter 5:13
23. Prophecy.	2 Peter 1:19-21
24. Apostasy of Church.	2 Peter 2:1
25. Preparation for the Second Coming.	2 Peter 3:14
26. Sabbath. Peter was there when	Mark 2:28
27. Peter set seal on Saint Paul's writings.	2 Peter 3:15

SAINT PETER AND "THE ROCK"

Matthew 16:13-20. "Whom do men say that 1 the Son of Man am?" "Whom say you that 1 am?" The subject is Christ. It is not Peter or any other disciple.

"The Rock," is not Peter.

1. If Christ had been speaking of Peter, He would have said, "Upon thee."
2. Christ said upon "this Rock." The great, statement just uttered, namely "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."
3. Christ the Divine One is the Rock. Matthew 16:23. Jesus "said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan."
4. Peter at this time was not converted. Luke 22:32. "When thou art converted." An unconverted person would be a poor foundation for the church.
5. Mark 1:30. Peter was a married man. Why are popes not married men, if they claim Peter was the first pope?
6. Peter was a Jew. No Jew would be made a pope today - nor ever have been. The Inquisition slaughtered millions of Jews. The Papacy has been anti - Jewish.
7. 1 Peter 5: 1. "I am an elder." St. Peter was but one of many elders.
8. Galatians 2:11. Paul withstood Peter to his face. It is evident saint Peter was not a pope. The rebuke was made over a "faith and morals" issue.
9. 2 Corinthians 11: 28. Paul, not Peter, had "the care of all the churches." Therefore Peter was not head over the churches.

"The Keys of the Kingdom of. Heaven." Matthew 23:13. "You shut up the kingdom of Heaven." Luke 11:52. "You have taken away the key of knowledge. "

The keys of the kingdom of heaven are the words of Christ. All the words of Holy Scripture are His, and are here included. These have power to open and shut heaven." Desire of Ages, pages 414.

HE THAT WINS SOULS IS WISE

1. What did Jesus say to Peter about the Rock?

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. [Matthew 16:16-19]

2. Who is the Rock?

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. [1 Corinthians 10:4]

3. Who is the Chief cornerstone?

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. [Ephesians 2:20]

The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. [Psalm 118:22]

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him does this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. [Acts 4:10-12]

To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believes on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. [1 Peter 2:7]

4. Is God the Rock or Peter?

For who is God save the LORD? Or who is a rock save our God? [Psalm 18:31]

Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe you greatness unto our God. 4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect. For all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. [Deuteronomy 32:3-4]

But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation. 16 They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger. 17 They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not. 18 Of the Rock that created you, you are unmindful, and has forgotten God that formed you. [Deuteronomy 32:15-18]

How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up? [Deuteronomy 32:30]

There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. [1 Samuel 2:2]

5. Is God the only ROCK?

And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer. [2 Samuel 22:2]

For who is God, save the LORD? And who is a rock, save our God? [2 Samuel 22:32]

The LORD lives; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation. [2 Samuel 22:47]

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. [Psalm 18:2]

Truly my soul waits upon God: from him comes my salvation. 2 He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense. I shall not be greatly moved. [Psalm 62:1-2]

But the LORD is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge. [Psalm 94:22]

6. Who is the head of the Church?

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. [Colossians 1:18]

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that fills all in all. [Ephesians 1:22-23]

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. [Ephesians 4:15]

FULL HARMONY WITH THE ORIGINAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Original Catholic Church Taught the Ten Commandments.

Saint	Matthew 5:17-19 (See Knox Translation)
Saint	Matthew 19:17.
Saint Paul	1 Corinthians 7:19.
Saint	Luke 23:56. They kept the Sabbath.
Saint	Luke 24:1 They worked on Sunday.
Saint	Luke 4:16. Our Lord kept the Sabbath.

The Ten Commandments are the Test of Truth. Isaiah 8:20 (Not Church or Tradition) Revelation 22:14
Revelation 22:18,19

Catholic means “universal.” “Go you into all the world,” - that is universal or catholic. Here you can introduce any Bible subject. The State of the Dead, The Soul, Heaven, Hell, The Sabbath etc. You have the whole Bible and its truths before you.

There is enough in this approach for many subjects. In fact, the whole truth could be covered under the heading “I Believe in the Original Catholic Church.”

The Original. This is what we need to get back to. The First Church. To Christ, St. Peter and the other Apostles. If, as even some Protestants, will want to go to the “Fathers,” my answer is “I am not interested in the “Fathers.” I want the Grandfather - the Original, the First the Old Paths.”

1. The Bible alone was Used by the Original Church.
Saint John 5:9. Before “councils.”
Saint Matthew 4. “It is written.”
St. Matthew 21:15. “Have you not read in the book of Moses?”
St. John 10:34. “Is it not written.”
St. Mark 12:10. “Have you not read this Scripture?”
St. Luke 10:26. “How reads thou?”

Jesus never appealed to tradition - the voice of the Church. Jesus said, putting tradition before the Commands of God is “vain.”
Matthew 15:6-13.

2. The Original Church Taught There Would be a “Falling Away.”
2 Thessalonians 2:1-4. Church would leave the Commandments. Man of Sin = Transgression of God's Law. Daniel 7:25. Change “times and laws.”

3. Need to be Careful as to Who We Regard as “Apostles.”
Revelation 2:2 (Same word “We are to bear,” other's burdens). “Weak” but not false brethren. Acts 20. 2 Corinthians 2:17. Many “corrupt” the Word of God.

4. The Original Church Never Quoted from Apocrypha.

5. St. Paul changed his Religion of Tradition (Galatians 1:14) for “Scriptures” as sufficient. 2 Timothy 3:16.

6. “Our Church handed down the Bible, Therefore Our Church Only Can Explain.”

1. Jews handed down Scriptures, yet they were made “void” by their traditions.

2. A dirty hand can hold up a bright, clear light.

3. Because Jews handed down the Bible, are we to accept their interpretation of Isaiah 53?

4. Jews developed tradition - “Failing Away,” do the same.

True Church - Revelation 12.

See Burnside’s “Revelation” Studies.

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