

Lion and Lamb Apologetics'

Catholic Questions

GOT QUESTIONS



The Vatican Courtyard

Editor's Note: Lion and Lamb Ministries wholeheartedly concurs with the sentiments about Catholics and Catholicism as stated below from GotQuestions.org, which we highly recommend as a valuable resource for concise answers to serious questions.

We receive quite a few questions from Catholics and about Catholicism. Let us be abundantly clear, GotQuestions.org is not a Catholic ministry. We strongly believe that the Bible is to be our guide for faith and practice. While we recognize the value of church traditions, we refuse to accept any tradition that is not clearly supported by the Word of God. Our "conflict" with Catholicism is in regards to the proper interpretation of the Bible. Listed below are the most frequent questions we receive from Catholics and about Catholicism.

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We receive many "complaints" from Catholics that our articles about the Roman Catholic Church do not accurately present what the Catholic Church truly teaches and practices. We also receive many compliments from former Catholics stating that our articles about the Roman Catholic Church are absolutely true. All of our articles on Catholic topics were written by former Catholics who left the Catholic Church after comparing what the Catholic Church teaches and practices with the Bible, or by individuals with extensive experience with/knowledge of Roman Catholicism. The articles are thoroughly researched. We strongly believe them to accurately represent the doctrines of the Catholic Church. You may disagree with our conclusions, but they are the results of years of being Catholic, being taught Catholic doctrine, practicing Catholicism, studying Catholic theology, and conversing with Catholics. We are not bashing the Catholic Church, and we do not hate Catholics. We simply believe there are some serious doctrinal problems with the Catholic Church that need to be addressed biblically.

There is also the issue that the practices of many Catholics depart from the "official traditions" of the Roman Catholic Church. For example, the Roman Catholic Church does not "officially" teach Catholics to worship Mary, but rather to honor and revere her. However, through observation, it is abundantly clear that many Catholics do in fact worship Mary. This is the result of the Roman Catholic Church not doing a good job of teaching and explaining its doctrines. Many Catholics are completely ignorant of what Catholic doctrines and practices truly mean and signify. Some of our Catholic-related articles may be responding more to the unbiblical practices of some (or most) Catholics, and not necessarily the "official positions" of the Roman Catholic Church.

Please note — GotQuestions.org is not a Christian debate site. Our ministry is to present what the Bible teaches on various topics. It is not our purpose to attempt to persuade you that all of our views are correct. We have presented what we believe to be the truth. If you have genuine questions about something we have said, we will be happy to answer them. However, if you only want to engage in debate, we will refrain from responding to your emails. Again, our ministry is to answer questions as Biblically as we can. We would much rather answer the genuine questions of people who are seeking for answers than engage in a fruitless discussion with someone whose mind is already made up. Thank you for understanding!

NOTE: Links are to Got Questions and are highly recommended!

- * **I am a Catholic. Why should I consider becoming a Christian?**
- * **What is Roman Catholicism?**
- * **Is salvation by faith alone, or by faith plus works?**

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- * What is sola scriptura?
- * Is Catholicism a false religion?
- * Are Catholics saved?
- * Are Catholic beliefs and practices biblical?
- * What is the origin of the Catholic Church?
- * What is the Catholic Bible?
- * What does the Bible say about the virgin Mary?
- * What is the Catholic sacrament of Holy Eucharist? What is the Catholic definition of celebrating Holy Eucharist?
- * What is the immaculate conception?
- * Is prayer to saints or Mary biblical?
- * Is worship of saints / Mary biblical?
- * What are the Apocrypha / Deuterocanonical books? Do the Apocryphal / Deuterocanonical books belong in the Bible?
- * What is transubstantiation?
- * Is apostolic succession biblical?
- * Witnessing to Catholics—what is the key?
- * Is praying the rosary Scriptural?
- * Are the seven Catholic sacraments biblical?
- * Should Catholic tradition have equal or greater authority than the Bible?
- * What does the Bible say about the pope / papacy?
- * What does the Bible say about confession of sin to a priest?
- * What does the Bible say about infant baptism?
- * What was the first / original church? Is the original / first church the true church?
- * What was the Protestant Reformation?
- * Is the pope, or the next pope, the antichrist?
- * What is the whore of Babylon / mystery Babylon?
- * What are Christian saints according to the Bible?
- * What is the Apostles' Creed?
- * What does the Bible say about purgatory?

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- * What is moral theology?
- * What is the rock in Matthew 16:18?
- * Is the priesthood of all believers biblical?
- * What is extreme unction?
- * Was Saint Peter the first Pope?
- * Is the perpetual virginity of Mary biblical?
- * What is the Eastern Orthodox Church and what are the beliefs of Orthodox Christians?
- * What was the Great Schism?
- * What are indulgences and plenary indulgences, and are the concepts biblical?
- * Is papal infallibility biblical?
- * Catholic vs. Protestant - why is there so much animosity?
- * What are the differences between Catholics and Protestants?
- * What does the Bible say about liturgy? Should a Christian participate in liturgical worship?
- * Does the Bible teach mortal and venial sin?
- * Why have so many claimed to see apparitions of Mary?
- * Are apparitions of Mary, such as Lady Fatima, true messages from God?
- * Who is the Lady of Guadalupe? Were the apparitions of Mary at Guadalupe real?
- * Does the Bible support the Catholic practice of a marriage annulment?
- * Is the Catholic concept of a nun biblical?
- * What were the Inquisitions?
- * What does the Bible say about holy water?
- * What is the Assumption of Mary?
- * Sign of the cross - what is the meaning? Should Christians perform the sign of the cross?
- * Is the Pope the Vicar of Christ?
- * What does the Bible say about Limbo?
- * What does the Bible say about being a God-parent?
- * Does the Bible teach the celibacy of priests?

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- * What is sacerdotalism?
- * Which of the 30,000 Protestant denominations is the true church of God?
- * Who is the Queen of Heaven?
- * Is the observance of a first communion biblical?
- * What is the correct interpretation of John 20:23?
- * What is the cause of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church?
- * What is the Holy See?
- * Who are the Jesuits, and what do they believe?
- * What is iconoclasm?
- * Do eucharistic miracles really happen?
- * Is it wrong for Catholics to refer to their priests as “father”?
- * What is the meaning/definition of the word Catholic?
- * What happened at the Council of Trent?
- * What is the Hail Mary that Catholics say so often?
- * What is the Vatican / Vatican City?
- * What is the Catholic catechism?
- * Is the Catholic concept of absolution biblical?
- * Why is the real presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper such a controversial issue?
- * What is beatification and canonization and are they biblical?
- * What is a novena?
- * Is penance mentioned in the Bible?
- * What was the Holy Roman Empire?
- * Do Catholics worship idols / practice idolatry?
- * What is a papal conclave?
- * Is Mary the mother of God?
- * Is Mary the co-redemptrix / mediatrix?
- * How are Catholics able to perform exorcisms if many of their beliefs are unbiblical?
- * Who are the Knights of Columbus?

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- * What is the Catholic understanding of baptism?
- * Are baptism and communion means of grace?
- * Should a non-Catholic Christian participate in a Catholic Mass?
- * What is Mariology?
- * What is a cardinal in the Roman Catholic Church?
- * Why can't Catholics eat meat on Fridays during Lent?
- * What are the Catholic Ten Commandments?
- * What is the difference between veneration and worship?
- * What is spiritual theology?
- * What are the Holy Days of Obligation?
- * What is the magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church?
- * What does 1 Timothy 3:15 mean when it says that the church is the pillar and foundation of the truth?
- * What is an oblation?
- * What is Candlemas?
- * Did Mother Teresa go to heaven?
- * Is it true that the bodies of some saints are incorruptible?
- * What is genuflection? What does it mean to genuflect?
- * Who are the Franciscans?
- * What is inculturation? Is inculturation biblical?
- * What is the Liberal Catholic Church?
- * Is the Catholic Church the mother church?
- * What was the Counter-Reformation?
- * Is religious iconography considered idolatry? What is an icon?
- * What is Mariolatry?
- * What is the Cursillo movement?
- * What is evangelical Catholicism? What is an evangelical Catholic?
- * What is the repose of the soul?
- * What is Jansenism, and is it biblical?

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- * Who are the Maronites?
- * What is the treasury of merit?
- * Was Joseph married before Mary?
- * Is the Catholic Church a separate religion or a division of Christianity?
- * What was *Unam Sanctum*?
- * What was the Avignon Papacy / Babylonian Captivity of the Church?
- * What was the conciliar movement / conciliarism?
- * I am a former Catholic. Should I continue to go to Catholic Church so I can reach people for Christ?
- * What happened at Vatican I / the First Vatican Council?
- * What is the Focolare Movement?
- * What happened at Vatican II / the Second Vatican Council?
- * What is a religious order?
- * What are meritorious works in Catholicism?
- * What is the Cistercian Order?
- * What is a rite?
- * Should Evangelicals and Catholics be together instead of separate?
- * What is the Sacred Heart of Jesus?
- * Was Mary sinless? Was Mary without sin?
- * What are the seven cardinal virtues?
- * What are patron saints?
- * What is an acolyte?
- * What is *prima scriptura*?
- * What is apostolic action?
- * What is Divine Mercy Sunday?
- * What is sedevacantism?
- * What is the meaning of *Corpus Christi*?
- * What are charismatic Roman Catholics?
- * What is actual grace?

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- * What is a diocese? What is an archdiocese?
- * Who are the fourteen holy helpers of Catholicism?
- * What is sacramentalism?
- * What is Utraquism? What is an Utraquist?
- * Can people in heaven pray for us?
- * What is the *Donation of Constantine*?
- * What does it mean that outside the church there is no salvation?
- * What is hagiography?
- * What is the church suffering?
- * What is the church militant?
- * What is auricular confession?

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