

True Religion? Part 7

Catholicism (continued)

Pastor Miles McPherson – September 17-18, 2005



A religion can be defined as a “system of beliefs and practices designed to lead someone into a relationship with the supernatural”. A major focus of many religions is often life after death.

True Religion? is a series designed to investigate how “true” the beliefs and promises are for some of the most commonly practiced religions.

Catholic Conflicts

1. Tradition and Scripture

The Catholic Church teaches that the authority of church tradition is equal to the authority of the Scriptures.

Matthew 15:1-6
2 Timothy 3:16

2. Salvation by Works

The Catholic tradition offers salvation by works or good deeds while the bible teaches salvation by faith.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Catechism #1821: “We can therefore hope in the glory of heaven promised by God to those who love him and do his will. In every circumstance, each one of us should hope, with the grace of God, to persevere ‘to the end’ and to obtain the joy of heaven, as God's eternal reward for the good works accomplished with the grace of Christ.”

Council of Trent, Canon 12: “If any one shall say that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in the divine mercy pardoning sins for Christ's sake, or that it is that confidence alone by which we are justified... let him be accursed.”

3. Idolatry

The Catholic tradition leads people into idolatry while the Bible teaches that idolatry is sin.

Exodus 20:3-6

- Mary was not a lifelong virgin, was blessed but not sinless, needed a savior, and was not “assumed” into heaven before death.
- Neither Mary nor so-called saints can act as a mediator between you and God.
- Neither Mary nor the saints can receive or answer your prayers.

Mark 3:31-35
Luke 1:47
1 Timothy 2:5
Acts 4:13

4. Purgatory

The Catholic tradition offers the false hope of purgatory to cleanse unforgiven sins while the Bible teaches that Jesus alone is the forgiver of all sin.

Hebrews 9:27

Catechism #1030: “All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation, but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.”

This process of purification occurs in a place designated by the Catholic Church as purgatory.

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