

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Catholicism Compared to What We Believe Pt4
Doctrine of the Eucharist, Father, and Salvation
Scripture Text: Mark 7:6–9
06/03/2018

Mark 7:6–9 (NKJV)⁶ He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their *lips*, But their heart is far from Me. ⁷ *And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*’⁸ For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”⁹ He said to them, “*All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.*

“The work we do for Christ is not the cause of our salvation; the work we do for Christ is because of our salvation”

We will pick back up in our series on how Catholicism compares to what we believe. As I figured this comparison has proven to be the lengthiest, most challenging and filled with confusion based on tradition and interpretation. If I were to spend the rest of the year on Catholicism I would not cover all the differences and shameful history. I am trying to stay focused on key doctrinal issues for fear of getting bogged down arguing differences and not teaching truth.

So, in light of that I intended to talk about just two, maybe three catholic doctrines that, to me, are false. That has not worked. I will do my best to keep it short.

Doctrine of the Eucharist

First, something we are all familiar with and that is the Catholic Mass or sometimes called the **Eucharistic Celebration**. The church teaches that through consecration by a priest the sacrificial bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ through a process called “Transubstantiation”. The Catholic Church no longer practices closed communion, with only baptized members in a state of grace ordinarily permitted to receive the Eucharist.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_in_the_Catholic_Church

They justify this doctrine by saying that if an angel can take on human form, God is infinitely able to humble himself under the appearance of bread in order that we might receive him.

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/how-to-defend-christs-presence-in-the-eucharist>

This is interesting because the doctrine teaches that Christ submits himself in this way offers Himself to be a sacrifice over and over again.

This is contrary to the scriptures in Hebrews that says Jesus did it once for all.

*Hebrews 7:27 ...'Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins and then for the people's; for this He did **ONCE**, when He offered up himself.'*

*Hebrews 10:12 ...'But this Man, after **He had offered ONE SACRIFICE FOR SINS FOR EVER, sat down on the right hand of God.**'*

Doctrine of the Priest

To enhance and justify the elevation of the Roman Catholic Priest, the Roman Catholic Church teach that all sins MUST be confessed to a Catholic Priest.

"One who desires to obtain reconciliation with God and with the Church, must confess to a priest ... Confession to a priest is an essential part of the sacrament of Penance."

So, we learned that Catholic have now placed two (2) people between us and Jesus as mediator, Mary and the priest.¹ *Timothy 2:5 (NKJV)* ⁵ *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*
To teach otherwise is blasphemous.

Now this brings up the role of the priest in the Catholic church and it also ties into Salvation. First let me address the problem I have with calling any priest or religious leader “Father” in the religious or spiritual sense.

Matthew 23:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ *But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.* ⁹ **Do not call anyone on earth your father;** *for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.*

Jesus is not saying that we should not call our paternal “father” by the title “father”. Nor do I believe He is condemning the use of endearment given to another who has earned their respect and admiration.

Commentary: Christ is merely forbidding the use of such names as spiritual titles, or in an ostentatious sense that accords undue spiritual authority to a human being, as if he were the source of truth rather than God.1(JM)

The Title: Holy Father

They Say, “only God is holy by His very essence; however, by a person, place, or thing’s association with God, it too can be called holy. To be called holy is to express the idea of consecration, that someone or something belongs to God. That is why the Bible can call many persons, places, and things holy.

Since we are his holy people, and his people are the Church, it is fitting that the head of his holy people be called “Holy Father”—not because of his own merit, but because Christ died for him and for the Church that he leads on earth.”

Two things. They must first justify the use of the title “father” which we addressed above. Second, The Pope has assumed absolute power, spiritual authority to even rival God and Christ. He is worshipped as a “Holy Father”. (example the ritual of bowing and kissing his ring)

Let me get to their salvation doctrine before I run out of time.

Doctrine of Salvation BY Works

The Roman Catholic Church claim that salvation is only possible through herself, the Catholic Church.

"There is no salvation outside the church (Roman Catholic Church)." (Pope John Paul II, Radio Message for Franciscan Vigil at St Peter's and Assisi, October 3, 1981)

¹ MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). [*The MacArthur Study Bible*](#) (electronic ed., p. 1436). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

"Salvation is to be found nowhere but, in the church, (Roman Catholic Church), the strong and effective instrument of salvation is none other than the Roman Pontificate." (Pope Leo XIII, Allocution for the 25th Anniversary of his election, February 20, 1903.

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

<http://www.end-times-prophecy.org/catholic-church-false-doctrine.html>

They justify that faith alone cannot save by referring to the following scripture passage.

James 2:21–24 (NKJV) ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, **and not by faith only.**

How can we ignore, Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

I cannot cover every point of this for I am already running out of time, but I cannot let this go without comment.

The very first thing I saw was that nowhere was Abraham said to be saved. He was said to be “righteous” because God accounted his faith unto righteousness. He was said to be “justified”

Justified: **b** : conforming to a standard of correctness :
 2a (1) : acting or being in conformity with what is morally upright or good : RIGHTEOUS

The term justified was used concerning Noah.

Genesis 6:9 (NKJV) ⁹ This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. Of course, Noah was saved “from the flood” but so was his family of whom we don’t know of their righteousness.

If works was a necessary part of salvation then the sacrifice of Christ was not enough and man, including Abraham, would have something to boast about contrary to Eph 2:8-9.

Romans 4:2 (NKJV) ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

Their point is that we are not saved by faith alone but through the Catholic church. Another Christ plus doctrine like the JW, and the LDS.

Let’s just for argument say that Abraham was saved (*exchanging the word righteous*) That came about because God accounted his faith unto righteousness (salvation). What about the works question? Abrahams work was an outward **justification** (confirmation) of the faith and righteousness he had.

It is almost like a person getting a job or a promotion and once in the job they do good work. Their performance **justifies the decision** to having given them the job or promotion.

Back to James.

Meditate on this verse

James 2:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ *But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, **and I will show you my faith by my works.***

Now I know you all are riveted and on the edge of your seats but I will have to end it here for today and pick it back up next week.

Let us not fall into the category of those mentioned in our focus passage

V7 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. ⁷ And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' ⁸ **For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men**

END

Message Scriptures: **Mark 7:6–9**, *Hebrews 7:27, Hebrews 10:12, 1 Timothy 2:5, Matthew 23:8–9, Acts 4:10-12, James 2:21–24, Genesis 6:9, Romans 4:2, James 2:18*

RESOURCES

Is Mary the Mother of God?

<https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/questions/mother-mary-theotokos/>

Why do Catholics call Mother Mary "Queen of Heaven and Earth"?

http://catholicbridge.com/catholic/mary_queen_of_heaven_and_earth.php

“Queen of Heaven”: a Review

<https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2017/04/03/queen-of-heaven-a-review/>