

Why the Roman Catholic “Church” Is Not the Church that Jesus Founded

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A Simple, Scriptural Refutation

The Roman Catholic claim to being the one true church which Christ founded is, no doubt, well known. Rome believes itself to be the Bride of Christ, and teaches that Protestants are heretics that have broken away from the true church of Christ. However, how does their claim to being the one true church which Christ founded match up to Scripture?

Scripture teaches that the church that Christ founded consists only of those who have become members of the New Covenant. As members of the New Covenant, then, they are necessarily partakers of the promises of that covenant. And that covenant promises that *all* who are members of it will know God as the one who forgives *all* of their sins and remembers their iniquities *no more*, as the Lord Himself declares in Jeremiah 31:31-34:

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Scripture clearly teaches us that *all* of the members of the New Covenant will know God as the one who forgives *all* of their sins and remembers their iniquities *no more*. Therefore, if the Roman Catholic “Church” is the church that Christ founded, then it is necessarily the church of the New Covenant, consisting *only* of those who are the recipients of the promises of the New Covenant. Accordingly, if the Roman "Church" is the one true church, then *all* of its members have come to know God as the one who forgives *all* of their sins and remembers their iniquities *no more*.

However, the Roman Catholic "Church" teaches that purgatory exists as place where remaining sin is purged from the believer before he enters heaven. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains:

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.

As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire. He who is truth says that whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age nor in the age to come. From this sentence we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come.¹

Yet if the sins of Roman Catholics must be purged in purgatory, then it follows that their sins have not been *forgotten* by God. And if their sins have not been forgotten, then they have not been *forgiven*. And if they have not been forgiven, then they have not come to know God as the One who forgives *all* of their sins and

¹ Sect. 1030-1031

remembers their iniquities *no more*. And from this it inexorably follows that they have not received the promises of the New Covenant. And if they have not received the promises of the New Covenant, then they are not those who are members of the New Covenant. And if they are not members of the New Covenant, then they are not the one true church that Christ founded. Therefore, the Roman Catholic "Church" is *not* the one true church which Jesus founded.

An Ensuing Dilemma

The ardent Romanist may insist, in spite of the above refutation, that the Romanist organization is the one true church that Christ founded. However, this cannot be the case, for if it is the one true church of Christ, then it necessarily consists of those who are members of the New Covenant, whose sins have all been forgiven and eternally forgotten. Therefore, if the Roman Catholic "Church" is the one true church which Christ founded, then the Roman Catholic "Church" is under obligation to reject the doctrine of purgatory.

This creates a dilemma for the Romanist institution. For if it maintains a doctrine of purgatory, then it is not the church of Christ; and if it rejects the doctrine of purgatory as false in order to maintain its imaginary status as the one true church which Christ founded, then it is not infallible. And if it is not infallible, then its popes, who propagate the false doctrine of purgatory, are also not infallible. For the Romanists claim that "that infallibility means more than exemption from actual error; it means exemption from the possibility of error."² The Romanist can continue to cling to his absurd beliefs, but he is faced with a dilemma that can only be resolved by his rejection of the New Covenant promises and his acceptance of God's anathema,³ or by his acceptance of the promises of the New Covenant and his rejection of the empty claims to infallibility and superiority made by the Romanist "Church," which amount to him rejecting Romanism altogether.

² *Catholic Encyclopedia* (<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07790a.htm>)

³ cf. Gal 1:8-9