

What's the Difference – Catholicism

Overview

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Introduction

The authority for the Christian is the Bible. God's voice never contradicts his Word.

Jude V3-4

2 Peter 2:1-3

Acts 20:20-21,26-30

Rockland County est. 36% Catholic

Main questions:

- 1) Is Catholicism – Christianity?
- 2) Can a person who attends Catholic church be saved?

Definitions

Theology	a sin that causes spiritual death, excluding people from the kingdom, ex. an intentional violation of the ten commandments, results in a loss of salvation (salvation may be gained through repentance and God's forgiveness)
Doctrine	a sin that may be committed unintentionally or without full consent, does not result in loss of eternal life, could be removed by confession or purgatory
Dogma	the study of God
Saint	consecrated to God, holy, a true believer and follower of Jesus (Philippians 4:21)
Mortal Sin	a principal or set of principles coming from an authority
Venial Sin	belief or beliefs taught by a church

Catholic Belief

The Bible says

PURGATORY

In the Catholic Encyclopedia it says that Purgatory is “a place or condition of temporal punishment for those who, departing this life in God’s grace, are not entirely free from venial faults, or have not fully paid the satisfaction due to their transgressions.”

A soul goes to this place after death to be cleansed of any remaining sins before entering Heaven

The Catholic church misuses
1 Corinthians 3:15

Jesus’ death was enough to pay the penalty for our sins.

1 John 2:2 NLT

²“He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.”

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 NLT

⁶“So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. ⁷For we live by believing and not by seeing. ⁸Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.”

CONFESSION

Catholicism teaches that for Christ’s forgiveness to be granted a person goes to confession, pray certain prayer/s. This teaches that the sinner must complete a type of work to receive forgiveness. The payment for our sin and the forgiveness given is then dependent on a person’s actions/works.

All sins of each believer are forgiven at the cross.

Sin has consequences physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually but we do not need to get resaved each time we sin.

1 Peter 3:18 NLT

¹⁸“Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.”

Colossians 2:13-14 NLT

¹³“You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.”

1 John 1:9 NLT

⁹“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

Isaiah 43:25 NLT

²⁵“I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again.”

Catholic Belief

The Bible says

POPE

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that the pope is infallible (incapable of making a mistake or being wrong) when speaking about doctrine or certain issues.

The pope is called the Vicar of Christ – representative of Christ

Same power and authority that Christ has over the church

The Catholic church misuses this verse

Matthew 16:18 NASB

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

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Peter was the first to make a confession of who Jesus is.

He does not have authority over other apostles

Peter (Greek – petros – male form of a rock)
Rock (Greek – petras – female form of a rock)

Hebrews 4:14-16 NLT

Christ Is Our High Priest

14 “So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. 15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. 16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.”

What is infallible? – the Word of God

MARY

The Catholic church’s view is that Mary (and “saints”) is an intercessor before God.

It is said that “saints” have more direct access to God than we do on earth and so their prayers are more effective.

They believe they can pray with and to Mary.

Images and statues of Mary are used as protection or for “good luck”

Romans 1:25 NLT

25 “They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.”

The Bible teaches that we only pray to God.

Exodus 20:4 NLT

4 “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.”

Hebrews 4:16 we have direct access to God

1 Timothy 2:5 NLT

5 “For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.”

BAPTISM

CCC – Catechism of the Catholic Church

CCC 1213 “Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: “Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.”

CCC 1263 “By Baptism *all sins* are forgiven, original sin and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin. In those who have been reborn nothing remains that would impede their entry into the Kingdom of God, neither Adam's sin, nor personal sin, nor the consequences of sin, the gravest of which is separation from God.”

CCC 1282 “Since the earliest times, Baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit; children are baptized in the faith of the Church. Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom.”

Acts 2:38 NLT

³⁸”Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Mark 16:15-16 NLT

¹⁵ “And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. ¹⁶ Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.”

Catholic Belief

The Bible says

SALVATION

Faith in Jesus is necessary but more is added.

To receive salvation, a person must receive Christ as Savior by faith, be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, works, and die without any unconfessed mortal sins.

After this there is still a chance of further cleansing in purgatory

CCC 1257 "The Lord himself affirms that Baptism is necessary for salvation. He also commands his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations and to baptize them. Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament. The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude; this is why she takes care not to neglect the mission she has received from the Lord to see that all who can be baptized are "reborn of water and the Spirit." *God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments.*"

Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

⁸"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast."

Roman 10:9-10 NLT

⁹"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."

John 14:6 NLT

⁶"Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

John 3:16 NLT

¹⁶"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:3 NLT

³"Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Acts 4:12 NLT

¹²"There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

Witness

Over 1.3 billion Catholics

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Prayer