



ROMAN CATHOLICISM

CRI is a transdenominational evangelical Protestant ministry primarily dedicated to exposing anti-biblical errors and providing information helpful to people evangelizing those misled by non-Christian religions, cults, the occult, and various false teachings. For this reason, we are often asked what our position is on the subject of Roman Catholicism (hereafter "RC" for short).

Our position is that RC is a religious system which includes both orthodox biblical Christianity and elements of unbiblical or "cultic" doctrine and practice. That is, we recognize that RC historically has affirmed the essential teachings of the Bible, while also teaching doctrines which are inconsistent with that affirmation and which seriously compromise the gospel of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge the presence in RC of many genuine brothers and sisters in the Lord, while also recognizing that many of those within RC worldwide today appear to be lost. Although certain doctrines and practices in RC might properly be termed "heretical," they would not be so in the same way or to the same extent as the cults (Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, etc.). The errors of RC are heretical only in that they compromise or undermine the orthodox confession of the church. In short, we regard RC as neither a biblically sound Christian church nor a cult, but a Christian church with a mixture of orthodox and erroneous teachings.

We take this stand knowing that many will criticize us for it. Catholics take issue with us because we are critical of many of their teachings, while many Protestants condemn us for not criticizing RC as strongly as they would like. Our position is often misunderstood: Catholics sometimes think we regard all Catholics as lost, while Protestants sometimes think that we endorse RC. Indeed, some Protestants have accused CRI of being Jesuit-controlled! Our concern, though, is not to please men, but to speak the truth in love. We are not in any way controlled by the RC church, nor are we afraid to speak against its heresies; but we are unwilling to misrepresent RC or exaggerate its faults either.

Below are listed the materials which we have available relating to RC. Most of these are free for the asking; only the tape series is sold for a set price (order using the CRI Resource List). If you have questions that are not addressed in these materials, feel free to write or call our Research Department; they take research calls Tuesdays through Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon California time.

- "Roman Catholicism," by Walter Martin -- 3-tape series (C-108), \$15.95.
- "From Catacomb to Vatican," by Bob and Gretchen Passantino (DC-130), an excellent historical overview of RC.
- Catholicism Bibliography (DC-150)
- "What Separates Evangelicals and Catholics" (DC-300)
- "Catholic Charismatics and the Cult of Mary," by Walter Martin (DM-160)
- Current Catholicism Fact Sheet (FS-009)

In 1986 Dr. Martin debated Father Mitchell Pacwa, a Jesuit priest. To order audio and/or video cassettes or transcripts of this debate, contact The John Ankerberg Show, P.O. Box 8977, Chattanooga, TN 37411, 1-800-251-7662.

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