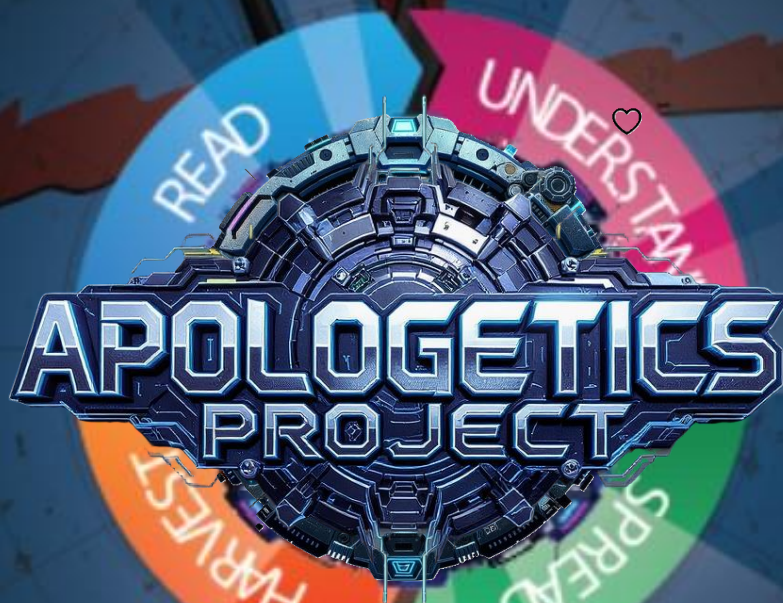


THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY CATHOLICISM



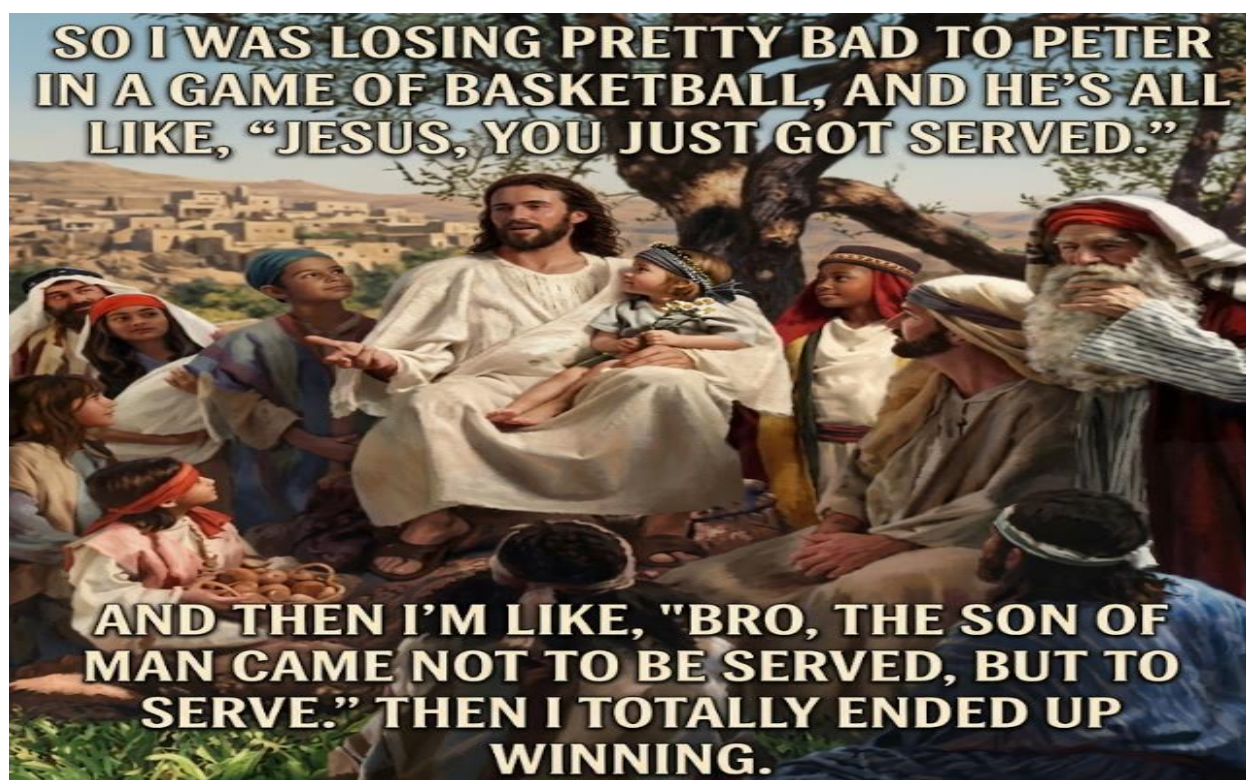
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST



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The R.U.S.H. Bible Study Position on Catholicism

I really didn't want to take this one on, because of my deep affection for the Catholics in my life, but in light of recent statements made by the pope I felt maybe I should. In 2021 the Vatican made a ruling in its doctrinal office which barred any blessings on same-sex couples. The ruling correctly stated that "God cannot bless sin." In October 2023 Pope Francis (the Pastor to 1 Billion Catholics) made an about face and formally permitted Roman Catholic Priests to bless same-sex and unmarried couples. The blessings may be carried out providing they are not part of regular Church rituals or liturgies, nor at the same time as a civil union. Pope Francis has long indicated his support for civil recognition of same-sex couples and has been making efforts to move the Vatican away from the more Biblical stance the church has had for centuries, toward the world's view of "tolerance." This is just another in a series of dominos that has crippled the Catholic Church, and prevents it from reaching its potential.

The Catholic Church has been around for 1700 plus years. That's a long time. No organization could operate that long without a boat-load of mistakes, and just as many victories. Before I continue, allow me to 1st applaud them on 1 point. **The Roman Catholic Church has been the sole caretakers and guardians of the earliest copies of scripture and supporting documents for millennia, alone, and often at great sacrifice.** For this we all owe them a tremendous debt. However, that is no excuse for heresies, sin and false doctrine. So let's get to it. (CCC stands for Catechism of the Catholic Church).

Roman Catholic False Teaching, with a verse combatting the falsehood in red, and my explanation in blue italics:

1. The Catholic Church is the one true church (CCC 2105)

We, believers, are now the temple of the living God! Hebrews 10:25

The Bible is clear, the church is not the property, we Christians are. There are billions of true churches, not one.

2. The Infallibility of the Catholic Church, (CCC 2035)

What then? Are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: Romans 3:9-10.

Nobody is perfect. Not me, not you, not the Pope. Not even my Grandmother. And she was real nice.

3. The Celibacy of the Priesthood (CIC 277)

This is a true saying: If a man is eager to be a church leader, he desires an excellent work. ² A church leader must be without fault; he must have only one wife, be sober, self-controlled, and orderly; he must welcome strangers in his home; he must be able to teach; ³ he must not be a drunkard or a violent man, but gentle and peaceful; he must not love money; ⁴ he must be able to manage his own family well and make his children obey him with all respect. ⁵ For if a man does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of the church of God? I Timothy 3:1-4.

The qualifications for leadership in the church are very clear from this passage. He must have one wife, and obedient children. Not one leader in the Catholic Church is qualified to hold his position on this one verse alone. The Catholic Church didn't always believe in celibacy for the priesthood. For almost 1000 years priests married and had children. It wasn't started until the 2nd Lateran Council in 1139 AD that celibacy was mandated for all Roman Catholic Clergy. Augustine and Origen, 2 influential early church fathers promoted celibacy on a volunteer basis based on Paul's decision to live a celibate lifestyle, but Paul forbid the practice of mandatory celibacy in ! Corinthians 7:1-9.

Now, to deal with the matters you wrote about. A man does well not to marry. ² But because there is so much immorality, every man should have his own wife, and every woman should have her own husband. ³ A man should fulfill his duty as a husband, and a woman should fulfill her duty as a wife, and each should satisfy the other's needs. ⁴ A wife is not the master of her own body, but her husband is; in the same way a husband is not the master of his own body, but his wife is. ⁵ Do not deny yourselves to each other, unless you first agree to do so for a while in order to spend your time in prayer; but then resume normal marital relations. In this way you will be kept from giving in to Satan's temptation because of your lack of self-control. ⁶ I tell you this not as an order, but simply as a permission. ⁷ Actually I would prefer that all of you were as I am; but each one has a special gift from God, one person this gift, another one that gift. ⁸ Now, to the unmarried and to the widows I say that it would be better for you to continue to live alone as I do. ⁹ But if you cannot restrain your desires, go ahead and marry—it is better to marry than to burn with passion. 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

4. Only the Roman Catholic Church has authority to interpret Scripture (CCC 100)

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. James 1:5.

The hubris of this statement is almost bazar given the admonition of Christ for all of us to seek, ask and knock. In the scripture I used above, the proposition is offered "if any of you" and then "giveth to all men liberally." Please understand that the church does have the authority to interpret scripture, and so do you. In fact we all have the obligation to do just that, and discuss it. But I part ways when someone says only they have the right to interpret scripture.

5. The Pope is the head of the church and has the authority of Christ (CCC 2034)

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 1Timothy 2:5.

Jesus is head of the church. Not just in Heaven, but here on Earth as well. I've never seen a Pope big enough to knock Him off that throne yet, and I'm not expecting to see one today either. To make the Pope or any man equal with God, tells me you are serving the wrong God. Look at this passage from Matthew 28.

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20.

Jesus is Almighty God according to Revelation 1:8. To be equal with Jesus is to be equal with God. Blasphemy.

6. The Roman Catholic Church is necessary for salvation (CCC 846)

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 14:6

We are not saved by the church. Any church. We are saved by Jesus blood. Jesus saved before the Catholics came on the scene in 350 AD and He will save when the Catholic Church is gone.

7. Sacred Tradition equal to scripture (CCC 82)

Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. Mark 7:7.

When we mix the traditions of man with the commandments of God, we ruin the result. Don't attempt to compromise with the world. You ruin the Gospel, and you don't help the world. Compromise is compromising.

8. Forgiveness of sins, salvation, is by faith and works (CCC 2036 CCC 2080 2068)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 1:8.

I hope I don't need to even say this, but, if you think your "goodness" can add anything to Jesus work on the cross, you are beyond any hope I can offer. For the record, we don't do good works to be saved, we do good works because we are saved.

9. Full benefit of Salvation is only through the Roman Catholic Church (Vatican 2, Decree on Ecumenism, 3)

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. Acts 4:10-12.

No church has a monopoly on the blood of Christ. Not your church, and not mine. We do not get to decide who goes to Heaven. Do you know why? Because we didn't hang on the cross, that's why.

10. Grace can be merited (CCC 2010 CCC 2027) You may earn your salvation through good works.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 1:8.

The word grace means "unmerited favor." How can we merit an "unmerited favor?" Logical fallacy.

11. The merit of Mary and the Saints can be applied to Catholics and others (1477)

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 1 Timothy 2:5.

For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans 14:10-12.

We will all stand before God and give answer for ourselves. Alone. Believe the Church, or the Bible, take your pick. According to the verse above, which spills from the lips of the Holy Spirit through Paul, I will be required to give an account for myself and so will Mary and so will the saints. "As I live says the Lord....."

12. Penance is necessary for salvation (CCC 980)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 1:8.

Penance has no biblical basis or foundation regarding your sin. Penance itself is a sin. Do you really think you can buy the forgiveness of God or the blood of Jesus by flogging your back?

13. Purgatory (CCC 1031 CCC 1475)

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Hebrews 10:16-18.

Purgatory has no biblical foundation. To contrary, God promises not to hold a grudge.

14. Indulgences for the remission of sin (CCC 1471 CCC 1478 CCC 1498 CCC 1472)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 1:8.

In my experience, anyone who has tried to get me to believe this false doctrine has been trying to sell me a book. The selling of indulgences is pure evil. Read this passage from Acts 8 on this very thing.

Simon saw that the Spirit had been given to the believers when the apostles placed their hands on them. So he offered money to Peter and John, ¹⁹ and said, "Give this power to me too, so that anyone I place my hands on will receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰ But Peter answered him, "May you and your money go to hell, for thinking that you can buy God's gift with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in our work, because your heart is not right in God's sight. ²² Repent, then, of this evil plan of yours, and pray to the Lord that he will forgive you for thinking such a thing as this. ²³ For I see that you are full of bitter envy and are a prisoner of sin." Acts 8:18-23.

15. Mary is Mediatrix (CCC 969)

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 1 Timothy 2:5.

Mary or Jesus, take your pick. Mary prayed to Jesus, and so will I.

16. Mary brings us the gifts of eternal salvation (CCC 969)

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 1 Timothy 2:5.

Not one verse in scripture even hints at this falsehood.

17. Mary delivers souls from death (CCC 966)

Our God is a God who saves; He is the LORD, our Lord, who rescues us from death. Psalms 68:20.

I feel bad for Mary. She did nothing that warrants the lies being told about her.

18. Prayer to the saints (CCC 2677)

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philipians 4:6-7.

The Bible clearly teaches us to make our requests to God. The saints are not God. That's idol worship. That's necromancy. Do you really feel that Jesus is not enough? Or that He is too busy? You underestimate God.

19. The Communion elements become the actual body and blood of Christ (CCC 1374 CCC 1376)

The one thing you must not eat is meat with blood still in it; I forbid this because the life is in the blood. Genesis 9:4.

I know what blood looks like, and I know what wine looks like. I know what flesh looks like, and I know what crackers look like. Transubstantiation is a lie. Communion, like baptism is clearly symbolic.

20. I have met a great many wonderful Catholics in my life. Believe me when I say I love them with all my heart. However I have met so many that have been serving the Catholic Church for their whole lives and don't know God's plan of Salvation. That breaks my heart. The Catholic Church needs a revival, and they need to get back to the basics. The Catholics need to throw away the unscriptural traditions and doctrines. Pray, read the Bible, and witness to what God has done in their lives. Everything else is icing on the cake. In fact, that advice is so good, I think I'll do it myself.

My precious Jesus, I pray forgive my sins. I give you all my past, my life right now, and all my future. In Jesus name, Amen. DH

The Flip Side:

Now having said this, let's look at the debt we owe this church. You will be impressed.

Besides being the Pastor to over 1 billion people the Pope oversees the largest charity in the world.

They are the largest non-governmental provider of education and medical services in the world.

Over 5,000 Hospitals and 16,000 clinics world-wide.

Over 140,000 schools.

Millions of free meals served globally every day.

A massive global network of 162 autonomous national organizations providing disaster relief and social services world-wide.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS): The official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic Church in the U.S., serving over 100 million people across more than 100 countries.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN): An international organization providing pastoral and spiritual support to persecuted and suffering Christians globally.

Jesuit Refugee Service: An international Catholic organization with a mission to accompany, serve, and advocate for refugees and forcibly displaced people.

On top of all of this, they have been the sole custodians of scripture for the lion's share of history. The Bible we use to correct them is the one they have protected and delivered to us.

We are right to correct error, and we are right to respect the people we love, but on occasion, disagree with. DH



Pope Francis meets President Donald J. Trump.
I just couldn't resist.



The most famous fresco in the world. The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.



Stacey and I in Vatican City



