

Roman Catholic "Add Ons" to the Gospel

Roman Catholicism doesn't deny the gospel, it buries it. There are at least seven major Roman Catholic add-ons to the gospel of Jesus Christ--each one distorting the truth and replacing grace with bondage.

1. Justification: Once For All, or A Lifelong Process?
 - a. Rome's teaching: Justification is infused at baptism and then just be preserved and increased through works, sacraments, penance, and cooperation with grace.
 - i. Council of Trent, Session 6, Canon 24 (1547): "If anyone says that the justice received is not preserved and also increased before God through good works...let him be anathema."
 - ii. Rome turns justification into a moral transformation plus continual effort. It's never final.
 - b. Biblical teaching: Justification is a legal declaration by which God counts the believer righteous through faith alone, based on the finished work of Christ.
 - i. Rom 3:28: "We hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law."
 - ii. Rom 5:1: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God"
 - iii. Justification is not a process, it's a status granted instantly and permanently through faith. Sanctification follows it--it doesn't maintain or secure it.
2. Purgatory: Necessary Cleansing, or a Denial of the Cross?
 - a. Rome's teaching: Most believers must go to purgatory after death to be purified from remaining sin before entering heaven
 - i. Council of Florence (1439) first dogmatized purgatory
 - ii. Council of Trent reaffirmed it and condemned anyone who denies it.
 - b. Biblical teaching:
 - i. Heb 10:14: "By one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified"
 - ii. Rom 8:1: "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"
 - iii. Purgatory undermines the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice. If His blood cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7), what's left to purge?
3. The Mass: Worship or On-going Sacrifice?
 - a. Rome's teaching: The Eucharist (Mass) is not a memorial alone--it is a real, repeated, unbloody re-presentation of Christ's sacrifice, which is still propitiatory.
 - i. Council of Trent, Session 22, Canon 3: "If anyone says that the sacrifice of the Mass is...a mere commemoration...let him be anathema."

- b. Biblical teaching:
 - i. Heb 10:12,14: "He offered one sacrifice for sins for all time...For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are sanctified."
 - ii. John 19:30: "It is finished!"
 - iii. Christ's death was once for all (Heb 7:27). Re-presenting it in the Mass is a functional denial of its finality and sufficiency.
- 4. Mary: Blessed Among Women or a Co-Mediator?
 - a. Rome's teaching: Mary is "Mediatrix of all graces," "Co-redemptrix," and has a role in distributing salvation. Catholics are encouraged to pray to her for aid.
 - i. Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 969): "She continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation...Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix."
 - ii. Pope Leo XIII (1891): "As no man goes to the Father but by the Son, so no one goes to Christ except through His Mother."
 - b. Biblical teaching:
 - i. 1 Tim 2:5: "There is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."
 - ii. John 14:6: "Jesus said...no one comes to the Father except through Me."
 - iii. Mary's exalted role undermines Christ's exclusive mediation and introduces another object of prayer and trust--something the apostles never taught or modeled.
- 5. Righteousness: Imputed by Grace or Earned Through Works?
 - a. Rome's teaching: Righteousness is infused into the soul at baptism and must be maintained through obedience, sacraments, and cooperation with grace.
 - i. Trent, Canon 11: "If anyone says that men are justified either by the sole imputation of the righteousness of Christ...let him be anathema."
 - b. Biblical teaching:
 - i. 2 Cor 5:21: "God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
 - ii. Phil 3:9: "Not having a righteousness of my own...but that which comes through faith in Christ."
 - iii. Righteousness is not earned or infused--it is credited to us by faith, because of what Christ has done.
- 6. Salvation Through Sacraments: Divine Grace or Religious System?
 - a. Rome's teaching: Grace is distributed through seven sacraments--especially baptism, Eucharist, penance, and confirmation--which are necessary for salvation.
 - i. CCC 1129: "The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation."

b. Biblical teaching:

- i. Eph 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith...not the result of works, so that no one may boast."
- ii. Gal 3:2: "Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?"
- iii. Grace is not distributed through rituals--it is freely given to those who believe. Paul rebuked those who added works to grace (Gal 1:6-9).

7. Scripture Alone or Scripture + Tradition?

- a. Rome's teaching: Authority is based on Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium (teaching authority of the Church). All three are equal and necessary.
 - i. Vatican II, Dei Verbum (1965): "It is not from Sacred Scripture alone that the Church draws her certainty about everything...both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal feelings of devotion."
- b. Biblical teaching:
 - i. 2 Tim 3:16-17: "All Scripture is God-breathed...that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
 - ii. Matt 15:6: "You nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition."
 - iii. When tradition is elevated to the level of Scripture, the gospel becomes a moving target. God's Word becomes subordinate to human interpretation.

So the Roman Catholic Church has added:

- Faith + Works
- Christ + Mary
- Grace + Sacraments
- Scripture + Tradition
- Cross + Purgatory
- Gospel + Hierarchy

But Scripture is clear: If anyone preaches another gospel...let him be accursed. (Gal 1:8)

The Biblical doctrine that Rome abandoned is not a slogan: Christ alone. Grace alone. Faith alone. Scripture alone. To the glory of God alone.

Catholicism vs. the Bible

Catholicism

Popes, Priests and Saints(note: the word "pope" is not in the Bible).

Pope Boniface VIII: "We declare, assert, define and pronounce: To be subject to the Roman pontiff is to every human creature altogether necessary for salvation."

Peter was the first pope and rock of the church in Mt. 16:18.

Pope Innocent III: "He (the pope) judges all and is judged by no one."

Pope Leo XIII: "We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty."

Salvation requires the seven Catholic sacraments(works).

CANON IV. - If any one saith, that the sacraments of the New Law are not necessary unto salvation,..let him be anathema." (The Council of Trent, The Seventh Session)

Mary is a mediator, perpetual virgin and sinless.

Note: Nowhere in the Bible are we told to pray to anyone other then God in Jesus' name.

The Mass is a continuous sacrifice of Jesus.

The wafer and wine becomes the LITERAL FLESH AND BLOOD OF CHRIST. A priest supposedly has the power to change the bread and wine into His body and blood.

Note: Millions of Christians where tortured and murdered for denying these doctrines during the inquisition(1231 - 1834).

The Bible

Christ is our head & high priest(Col. 1:18; Heb. 8:1), all Christians are spiritual priests(I Pet. 2:5,9) and called saints(Col. 1:26). The Bible teaches two church leadership positions:

"A bishop(pastor) then must be blameless, the husband of one wife,.." - 1 Tim. 3:2

"Let the deacons(elders) be the husbands of one wife,.." - 1 Tim. 3:12

The rock was Jesus: "...and that Rock was Christ." - 1 Cor. 10:4(Psa. 62:6; 2 Sam. 22:32; 1 Pet. 2:6-8; Rom. 9:33; Duet. 32:4)

Peter was married(Mt. 8:14; 1 Cor. 9:5). Peter wouldn't allow a man to bow to him as popes do(Acts 10:25-26; 1 Pet. 5:3). Jesus called Peter Satan(Mt. 16:23).

Salvation is to repent to God and believe on Jesus Christ(Acts 20:21; Rom. 10:9). Works are the result, not the cause of saving faith.

"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." - Eph. 2:8-9

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

Mary's kids(Mk 6:3; Gal 1:19; Mt 1:25; Psa 69:8-9/Jn 2:17 She sinned(Lk. 1:47; 2:22/Lev. 12:6; Rom. 3:23) Jesus rebukes a Mary idolater(Lk. 11:27-28).

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;..there is no more offering for sin." - Heb. 10:10-14,18(Heb 7:27; 9:25-28; 1 Pet 3:18)

Jesus said "eateth my flesh" - Jn. 6:53 is spiritual(Jn. 6:63). In the same book He is also "the door" - 10:9, "the true vine" - 15:1 and said you must "...be born again," - 3:3.

Consuming blood is forbidden(Acts 15:20).

