

SEPTEMBER 13TH-15TH, 2024

DISCERNMENT, DECEPTION & DELIVERANCE CONFERENCE



w/ Mike Gendron

Conference Schedule

Friday, September 13th

6:30pm-8:00pm

- Session 1 Delivering Catholics from Darkness to Light
- Session 2 The Bondage of Religious Deception
- Q&A

Saturday, September 14th

9:00am-2:00pm (with a lunch break in the Fellowship Hall)

- Session 3 Discerning Truth in an Age of Deception
- Session 4 Roman Catholicism's Opposition to God's Word
- Session 5 Convergence of Islam and Roman Catholicism
- Q&A

Sunday September 15th

9:15am and 11:00am

- Session 6 Why Was the Reformation Necessary?

Delivering Catholics from Darkness to Light

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Why Is the Roman Catholic Church a Mission Field?

According to its teachings, Catholics worship and trust “another Jesus” who did not finish the work of redemption and believe “another gospel” which leaves them dead in their sin (2 Cor. 11:4).

Expect a Stubborn Resistance

Indoctrination is a captivating power that causes resistance to God’s Word.

Religious pride may be Satan’s most powerful tool to blind people (2 Cor. 4:4).

Indoctrinations and Obstacles to Overcome

Catholics believe they belong to the one true church

They are utterly dependent upon their priests

They believe baptism is the means of regeneration

There is family pressure to remain Catholic

Many have never studied the Scriptures

RC Traditions that Distort the Gospel

They reject the promise of the Gospel which is eternal life.

They continue the work of redemption on an altar that Jesus finished on the cross.

They deny all sins are mortal.

They teach Mary is a sinless mediatrix and the cause of salvation.

Seven Keys for Witnessing to Catholics

1. Establish God’s Word as the Supreme Authority (2 Tim. 3:16; Hebrews 4:12).

Exhort Catholics to read and trust God’s Word as the only infallible source for truth on this earth.

2. Declare the Sufficiency of Jesus (1 Cor. 1:30; Heb. 10:10, 12, 18; John 19:30)

3. Get the Gospel Right and Its Promise Right

It is eternal – the same message for every generation (Rev. 14:6).

It is exclusive – all other faiths and religions are false (John 14:6).

It is according to Scripture alone - no other source (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

It has divine power - to save those who believe it (Rom. 1:16).

It is of grace – those who add anything are condemned (Gal. 1:6-9)

It promises eternal life (1 John 5:13)

4. Declare All Sins Are Mortal (Venial Sins are a Lie of Satan)

Catholics are told “You will not die” when you commit “venial” sins.

5. Teach Antithetically

Throughout Scripture we see a vivid contrast between truth and error. We see how people had to repent of Satan's lies to believe God's truth..

6. Pray...

for the salvation of those blinded by religious deception (Rom. 10:1)
for words to be given to fearlessly make known the Gospel (Eph. 6:19)
for God to open doors and hearts for us to proclaim Christ clearly (Col. 4:2-4)
for wisdom and to make the most of every opportunity (Col. 4:5-6)

7. Point Them to the Narrow Way

Warn them of false prophets leading them down the wide road to destruction!

Show People You Care by Asking Questions

What is the most important decision you face in this life?
What is the greatest gift you've ever received?
Where will you spend eternity?
Why did Jesus have to die?
What is the greatest news you've ever heard?
Are you ready to meet your creator?
If you could ask God one question, what would it be?
Do you know the only way God will forgive your sins?

More Questions to Ask Catholics

What are you trusting to get to heaven?
When and how were you born again?
Are you trusting what Christ has DONE or what you DO?
Is purgatory necessary to purge your sins?
Why do priests continue on an altar what Jesus finished on the cross?
What does your church teach about salvation?

Discipline Yourselves To Be Spiritual Doctors

Give people the true diagnosis. They inherited a fatal disease called sin and there is no human cure. But there is a divine cure free for the asking!

Witnessing Reminders

Address the primary problem – sin
Avoid preaching and arguing, seek to have a balanced conversation
Define terms biblically
Some reject the Gospel because it means their ancestors are in hell Luke 16
Call people to repent and believe the Gospel!

Make the most of every opportunity to glorify God through His Gospel. Let us be mindful of the shortness of time, the nearness, of death, the realities of eternity, the doom of lost sinners, the command of God, and the example of Christ.

The Bondage of Religious Deception

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1 The Nature of Deception

- A. Deception is an act or statement that twists, distorts or conceals the truth for the purpose of misleading people.
- B. The nature of deception is such that people will never know they are deceived unless they are confronted with the truth.
- C. The person or organization creating the deception uses it to gain power, control, wealth or influence.

2 The Bondage of Religion

The word religion is from a Latin word meaning “to bind fast.”

3 The Bondage of Legalism

The misplaced focus on obedience to laws or rules rather than on a relationship with God through faith.

4 The Bondage of Catholic Mass

Catholic are bound to participate in the Mass (CCC, 2180).

5 The Works of Satan

- A. He prowls like a roaring lion seeking people to devour (1 Pet. 5:1)
- B. He caused the fall of man (Gen. 3)
- C. He tempted Jesus (Luke 4:1-3)
- D. He led Judas to betray Christ (John 13:2)
- E. He ensnares people to do his will (2 Tim. 2:23-25)

6 Eucharistic Miracles

This worldwide deception is why many Protestants are converting to Catholicism. These “miracles” are not too difficult for the master deceiver. Remember he will give the false prophet power to make the earth worship the Anti Christ, whose fatal wound was healed.

7 We Must Contend Earnestly for the Faith

- A. To defend the glory, honor and name of Jesus Christ.
- B. To protect the purity and exclusivity of the Gospel (Gal. 1:6-9).

Discerning Truth in an Age of Deception

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1. **Why We Need Discernment** To distinguish truth from error
 - A. To examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5).
 - B. To test the veracity of everyman's teaching (Acts 17:11).
 - C. To identify and expose servants of the devil (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

2. **What about the Bible's most quoted verse "Do not judge"**
 - A. Judge righteously (John 7:24)
 - B. Judge all things (1 Cor. 2:15)
 - C. Judge preaching (1 Cor. 14:29)
 - D. Judge false spirits (1 John 4:1)
 - E. Judge false teachers (2 Cor. 11:1-4)
 - F. Judge false prophets (Mat. 7:15-20)
 - G. Judge false apostles (Revelation 2:2)
 - H. Judge false Christians (1 John 2:18-20)
 - I. Judge evil deeds of darkness (Eph. 5:11)

3. The Internal Testimony of the Bible

It is holy, pure, perfect, true, inerrant, infallible, living, eternal and the seed that brings forth life. It illuminates, cleanses, saves, frees, guides, converts, heals, judges, and sanctifies. It brings conviction, gives knowledge, gives wisdom, produces faith, refutes error, searches the heart, equips for every good work, and a sword to slay the devil's lies.

4. Satan's Attacks on the Christian Faith

- A. The Supremacy of God's Word
- B. The Sufficiency of God's Son
- C. The Singularity of God's Gospel
- D. The Sovereignty of God's Grace
- E. The Sanctification of God's Family
- F. The Security of God's Children
- G. The Severity of God's Punishment
- H. The Significance of God's Creation

We must live with discernment - Be willing to go against the flow as you discern the world's ways from God's ways (Isa. 55:8)

Roman Catholicism's Opposition to God's Word
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Two Streams of Christianity

Apostolic Church - The Lord Jesus is the builder and its only head. The gates of hell shall not prevail against His Church (Mat. 16:18). It is made up of born again Christians who are in Christ and sanctified by the truth of God's Word (John 17).

Apostate Church - Churches, denominations and individuals who departed from the true church or departed from the faith of the apostles (1 John 2:19; 1 Tim. 4:1).

The Differences Between True Christianity and Roman Catholicism

1. A Different Church

The Lord's Church was purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). He is adding to His Church daily, those who are being saved (Acts 2:47). Their names are enrolled in heaven (Luke 10:20; Heb. 12:23). It is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of truth (1 Tim. 3:15). The foundation was laid and completed 2000 years ago. The true church observes two ordinances - Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

The Catholic Church is entered through water baptism and has 7 sacraments. It departed from the faith to follow demonic doctrines and pagan traditions.

2. A Different Authority

Christians have one supreme authority - Scripture is the authority in all matters of faith and practice and exposes doctrinal error.

Catholics have three authorities - Scripture, Tradition, and "Infallible" bishops.

3. A Different Jesus

Christians trust the Jesus who is gloriously revealed in Scripture. He offers eternal life, the complete forgiveness, a permanent right standing with God, and peace and assurance.

Catholics worship a Jesus who offers conditional life, partial forgiveness, (residual sin remains), continuous striving to gain God's acceptance, uncertainty, fear, doubt and a false hope. The Jesus of Rome did not satisfy divine justice, did not provide direct access to God, did not make believers perfect forever, did not secure salvation and he did not finish the work of redemption. This is why he is still on the cross.

4. A Different Gospel

Christians are saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8-9). Those who believe anything else believe in vain (1 Cor. 15:2).

Cursed are those who preach another gospel (Gal. 1:9).

Catholics believe they are saved by faith plus: sacraments (1129), plus the Mass (1405), plus purgatory (1030), plus indulgences (1498), plus

baptism (1256), plus law keeping (2068), plus good works (2016). Catholics are utterly dependent upon their priests for salvation. (Numbers are paragraphs in the Catechism of the Catholic Church). The Five Solas were a response to the Vatican's teaching on salvation...

Grace + merit

Faith + works

Christ + other mediators

Scripture + tradition

Glory to God + Mary & Saints

5. A Different Mary

Christians acknowledge the Mary who is revealed in Scripture.

Catholics embrace a Mary who was sinless, and the cause of salvation for herself and the whole human race. She is said to be the mediatrix of all graces and a perpetual virgin to whom Catholic venerate and pray.

6. A different View of Sin

Christians believe all sins are mortal and the just punishment for them is death. (Ez. 18:4; Rom. 6:23)

Catholicism declares venial sins "do not cause death, only temporal punishment" (CCC, para. 1863). This is a doctrine of demons that embraces Satan's first lie: "You surely shall not die" (Gen. 3:4; 1 Tim. 4:1).

7. A Different Path to Eternity

Christians believe they are on the narrow way that leads to life because they have trusted solely in God's grace and what Christ has done

Catholics, who have never believed the Gospel, are on the wide road that leads to destruction. It is a way that seems right to man, but its end is the way to death (Prov. 14:12). It is the easy way because they are following others who love darkness and are blind to the truth.

Catholics and Christians are Divided on...

the Gospel and how one is justified

how one is born again

who mediates between God & man

the efficacy, sufficiency and necessity of Jesus Christ

Questions to ask Catholics

How do you hope to get to heaven?

When and how were you born again?

Where will you spend eternity?

Are you relying on what Christ has done or what you are doing?

Why did Jesus have to die?

Is purgatory necessary to purge your sins?

Why do priests continue on an altar what Jesus finished on the cross?

Convergence of Islam and Roman Catholicism

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A 1994 Vatican publication entitled: “The Spiritual Bonds Which Unite Us: 16 Years of Christian-Muslim Dialogue.” reveals the goal of the Vatican is to draw Muslims into unity with the Roman Catholic Church.

At first glance, the two faiths appear to be vastly different but under close inspection, they have much more in common than what separates them. It may surprise you that Catholicism has more in common with Islam than it does Christianity.

Common Bonds Between Islam and Catholicism

1. Both Deny the Supreme Authority of Scripture
2. Both Embrace Another Jesus
 - Did not obtain eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12)
 - Did not cancel the eternal sin debt (Col. 2:13)
 - Did not purify all sins (1 John 1:7)
 - Does not save completely and forever (Heb. 7:25)
 - Does not redeem from the law’s curse (Gal. 3:13)
 - Is not the only sinless mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)
 - Is not the only way (John 14:6)

3. Both Have a Works-Righteousness Salvation

4. Both Honor Mary Above All Woman

5. Both Seek Messages from Apparitions

At a gathering at Fatima a Jesuit priest stated: “The religion of the future will be a general converging of religions in a universal Christ that will satisfy all. The other religions in the world are part of God’s plan for humanity. God’s kingdom permits this, and it is nothing more than a diversified sharing in the same mystery of salvation.”

6. Both Have Human Mediators

7. Both Are Anti-Semitic

8. Both Seek World Dominion

9. Both Use Prayer Beads to Avoid Punishment

10. Both Take Pilgrimages to Obtain Favor from God

We must exhort Catholics and Muslims to turn to the true Christ who is gloriously revealed in Scripture. We must speak the truth in love and proclaim the exclusivity and purity of the Gospel to those lost in religion.

Was The Reformation Necessary?
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- I. Why Was the Reformation Necessary?
 - A. Rome had departed from the faith (1 Tim. 4:1-3)
 - B. Rome's clergy was distorting the Gospel (Gal. 1:6-9)
 - C. Popes had usurped the authority of God's Word (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - D. Catholic priests were false mediators (1 Tim. 2:5; Mat. 27:51)

- II. Five Solas were a Response to the Vatican's Errors on Justification
 - Grace + merit
 - Faith + works
 - Christ + other mediators
 - Scripture + tradition
 - Glory to God + Mary & Saints

- III. What Did the Reformation Accomplish?
 - A. Returned the Bible to the people in their own language
 - B. Re-established the Word of God as supreme authority for faith
 - C. Re-established the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Head of His Church
 - D. Recovered the doctrine of justification by grace alone through faith alone

- IV. Eight Contrasting Views on Justification
 - Justification is the change of one's legal status before God whereby a condemned sinner has been acquitted and declared righteous (Rom. 5:12-21)
 - *Rome says justification changes the inner man not his legal status (Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC] para. 2019)*

 - Justification is instantaneous (Rom. 4:3)
 - *Rome says justification is a process, the ongoing renewal of interior man (CCC, 2019)*

 - Justification is by faith in what God accomplished in Christ (Rom. 5:1)
 - *Rome says initial justification is by the sacrament of water baptism (CCC, 1992).*

 - Justification is permanent and is never lost by sin. The legal status of a justified man is as unchangeable as the righteousness of Christ (Heb. 10:14).
 - *Rome says justification is temporal, can be lost by sin and regained through the sacrament of penance and good works (CCC, 1446, 1861)*

 - Justification is for the ungodly (Rom. 4:5)
 - *Rome teaches final justification is for those who become righteous (CCC, 2016, 2020)*

 - Justification is the imputation of Christ's completed righteousness to the justified (2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 4:5)
 - *Rome says justification is the infusion of righteousness renews the interior man (CCC, 1989)*

- Justification is by grace apart from works. The righteousness of Christ is given as a gift (Titus 3:7; Rom. 4:8, 5:17, 11:6).
 - *Rome says justification must include good works. It must be merited by making satisfaction for sins through penance, works of mercy, prayer, etc. (CCC 1459, 1460, 2010, 2027).*
 - Justification insures glorification because everyone God justifies can never be condemned (Rom. 8:1, 8:30)
 - *Rome says God will condemn everyone who dies in mortal sin (CCC, 1861)*
- V. The Vatican's Strategy to Reverse the Reformation
 Vatican II's Decree on Ecumenism - 1965
 Evangelicals and Catholics Together Accords (ECT) - 1990's
 Catholics & Lutherans Joint Declaration on Justification - 1999
 The Manhattan Declaration -2009
- VI. As we witness to Catholics, three biblical teaching are most important:
 1) Scripture is the supreme authority for faith.
 2) Jesus is sufficient to save sinners completely and forever.
 3) The promise of the Gospel is Eternal Life.
- VII. What Must We Do?
 Remain sanctified by the truth (John 17:17)
 Enlist in the Lord's army to fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12)
 Test every teaching with God's Word (Acts 17:11)
 Stand firm, contend for the faith (Jude 3)
 Never let a lie go unabated; exhort and reprove with divine authority (Titus 2:15)
 Evangelize those lost in religion!

