

# Witnessing to Roman Catholics

(Summarizing Info from Philip DeCourcy, Mike Gendron, James McCarthy)



Summer Evangelism Series

MARTIN LUTHER – *Unless I am convicted of error by the testimony of Scripture (since I put no trust in the unsupported authority of pope or of councils, since it is plain that they have often erred and often contradicted themselves), by manifest reasoning I stand convicted by the Scriptures to which I have appealed, I cannot and will not recant anything, for to act against our conscience is neither safe for us, nor open to us. On this I take my stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen.*



SPURGEON – ... *it wounds Christ, because it robs Christ of His glory, because it puts sacramental efficacy in the place of His atonement, and lifts a piece of bread in the place of the Savior, and a few drops of water in place of the Holy Ghost, and puts a fallible man like ourselves up as the Vicar of Christ on earth...*





LORRAINE BOETTNER – *But in every instance it nullifies these truths to a considerable extent by adding to or subtracting from what the Bible teaches...Its interpretation of the Scriptures is so erroneous, and its principles are so persistently unchristian, that over the long period of time its influence for good is outweighed by its influence for evil. It must therefore as a system be judged to be a false church.*



## Important errors of Roman Catholicism...

1. The duality of TRADITION and SCRIPTURE
2. The blasphemy of the MASS
3. The tyranny of PURGATORY
4. The curse of SACRAMENTAL SALVATION
5. The scandal and universal authority of the PAPACY
6. The anathema of INCOMPLETE & PROGRESSIVE JUSTIFICATION
7. The ELEVATION OF MARY
8. The restriction of the PRIESTHOOD
9. The claims of the Catholic Church to be the ONE TRUE CHURCH



Rome's doctrine and practice undermine the four unshakable pillars of gospel truth:

1. That men are saved BY GRACE alone.
2. THROUGH FAITH alone.
3. In CHRIST alone.
4. Based upon the revelation of the same in SCRIPTURE alone.



In the *New Catechism* (reflecting the Second Vatican Council)—  
(It is) *through Christ's Catholic Church alone, which is the  
universal help toward salvation, that the fullness of the means  
of salvation can be obtained.*

Also in the *New Catechism* — *they could not be saved who,  
knowing that the Catholic Church was founded as necessary by  
God through Christ, would refuse either to enter it or remain in  
it.*



# MARIOLOTRY

The adoration and promotion of Mary is a keystone in Catholic dogma.

- *The Immaculate Conception*
- *Mary's Sinlessness*
- *Mary's Perpetual Virginity*
- *Mary's Bodily Assumption*
- *Mary as a co-Redemptrix and Mediatrix*
- Th



Pope Pius X – *The most holy Mother of God had not only the honor of having given the substance of her flesh to the only begotten Son of God...but she was also entrusted with the task of tending and nursing this victim and even of offering it on the altar at the appointed time.*

Pope Benedict XV – *She suffered and all but died along with her Son suffering and dying; thus, for the salvation of men she abdicated the rights of a mother toward her Son...she (offered) the Son to placate God's justice, so that she herself may justly be said to have redeemed together with Christ the human race.*



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- *Mary as central to the ministry of intercession and mediation.*
- Th



*Pope Leo XII – Nothing according to the will of God comes to us except through Mary, so that, as nobody can approach the Supreme Father except through the Son, similarly nobody can approach Christ except through the Mother.*

*In the Catechism of the Catholic Church:*

*Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation...Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, Mediatrix.*



From a Catholic prayer book:

*Have pity, compassionate mother, on us and our families...Help me, O my Mother, in my distress; deliver me from all my ills...This grace I expect of thee with confidence, because thou art our Perpetual Help.*

*We have no greater help, no greater hope than you...*

*... In thy hand I place my eternal salvation, and to thee I entrust my soul... dear Mother, I fear nothing; not from my sins, because thou wilt obtain for me the pardon of them; nor from the devils, because thou art more powerful than all hell together; no even from Jesus, my Judge, because by one prayer from thee, he will be appeased.*



Bishop Alponus de Liguori, a canonized saint in his celebrated work The Glories of Mary – *At the command of Mary all obey—even God... God grants the prayers of Mary as if they were commands. The mother, then, should have the same power as the Son... Jesus, who is omnipotent, made Mary also omnipotent...*



**D. Martyn Lloyd Jones** warned – *Roman Catholicism is the devil's greatest masterpiece! It is such a departure from the Christian faith and the New Testament teaching that...her dogma is a counterfeit; she is, as the Scripture puts it, "the whore" ...There are innocent people who are being deluded by this kind of falsity, and it is your business and mine to open their eyes...*

**Spurgeon** – *...if we pray against it, because it is against Him, we shall love the person though we hate their errors; we shall love their souls though we loathe and detest their dogmas, and so the breath of our prayers will be sweetened, because we turn our faces toward Christ when we pray.*



Witnessing Roman Catholics should include clarification of the following issues:

## **1. CLARIFYING THE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY**

For Catholics:

- The Bible
- Church Tradition
- The Pope



*Gal 2:11, 14 - 11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ... 14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"*



*Acts 17:11 - Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*



*Mark 7:6–9, 13 - 6 And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 7 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.' 8 "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men." 9 He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. ... 13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."*

*Col 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.*



*2 Tim 3:15–16 – 15... the sacred writings ... are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...*



“In what or in whom will you trust for your eternal destiny?”

SX teaches that His Word is truth – *John 17:17*.

And that He came to testify to the truth – *John 18:37*.

Each person ultimately must choose between man and his teachings...or Jesus and His word.



Witnessing Roman Catholics should include clarification of the following issues:

- 1. CLARIFYING THE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY**
- 2. CLARIFYING BIBLICAL TERMS**

- Justification
- Sin
- Repentance
- Eternal Life



Witnessing Roman Catholics should include clarification of the following issues:

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- 2. CLARIFYING BIBLICAL TERMS**
- 3. CLARIFYING THE 'BAD NEWS'**



*Rom 3:10–12 - 10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; 11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; 12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."*

*Rom 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

*Eph 2:1 - And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...*



*Heb 9:27 - ...it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,*

*Rom 6:23 - The wages of sin is death.*

*Rev 20:14–15 - 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*



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*1 Cor 2:2 - For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*

*Rom 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

*1 Cor 15:1–4 - 1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*



Proclaim the *sufficiency of Christ...*

- In Him we find a **PERFECT AND FINISHED SACRIFICE**

*Heb 10:10–14 - 10 ... we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; 12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD... 14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*



Proclaim the *sufficiency of Christ...*

- In Him we find a PERFECT AND FINISHED SACRIFICE
- In Him we find the only MEDIATOR we need

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

- In Him we find GRACE

*John 1:17 - For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.*

- In Him we find TRUTH – for He Himself is the truth\

*John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*



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- In Him we find the only MEDIATOR we need
- In Him we find GRACE
- In Him we find TRUTH – for He Himself is the truth
  
- In Him we find RIGHTEOUSNESS:

*1 Cor 1:30 - But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption...*



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  - In Him we find the only MEDIATOR we need
  - In Him we find GRACE
  - In Him we find TRUTH – for He Himself is the truth
  - In Him we find RIGHTEOUSNESS
- 
- In Him we find the only PRIEST we need:

*Heb 4:14–16 – 14...we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God... 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*



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- In Him we find the only MEDIATOR we need
- In Him we find GRACE
- In Him we find TRUTH – for He Himself is the truth
- In Him we find RIGHTEOUSNESS
- In Him we find the only PRIEST we need
- In Him we find the INTERCESSION we need

*Rom 8:34 - ...Christ Jesus ... is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*

*Heb 7:25 - Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

- In Him we find the only HEAD OF THE CHURCH we need

*Col 1:18 - He is also head of the body, the church...*



*Gal 1:6–8 - 6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!*



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Include clarification of the following issues:

- 1. CLARIFYING THE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY**
- 2. CLARIFYING BIBLICAL TERMS**
- 3. CLARIFYING THE 'BAD NEWS'**
- 4. CLARIFYING THE GOSPEL**
- 5. CLARIFYING WHAT JESUS OFFERS**

- (1) the complete forgiveness of sins;
- (2) the imputation of His perfect righteousness;
- (3) the assurance of eternal life.



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- 5. CLARIFYING WHAT JESUS OFFERS**
- 6. CLARIFYING FAITH & REPENTANCE**

*Mark 1:15 - Repent and believe in the Gospel*



***Eph 2:8–9** - 8 For by **grace** you have been saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

***Rom 11:6** - But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.*



## Summary – USE SCRIPTURE

The word of God is *living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword...Heb 4:12.*

1.



## Summary – FOLLOW THE ‘ROMAN ROAD’

- *Rom 1:18* - The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.
- *Rom 3:10* - There is none righteous, not even one.
- *Rom 3:23* - All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- *Rom 6:23* - The wages of sin is death.
- *Rom 5:8* - But God demonstrated His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- *Rom 3:24* – (God justifies believers) as a gift, by His grace, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.



## Summary – FOLLOW THE ‘ROMAN ROAD’

- *Rom 10:9-10, 13* - If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. ...Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.
- *Rom 8:30, 35-39* - Those God justifies He glorifies...  
...Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Jesus' simple invitation...

*Rev 22:17 - ...let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.*

*1 John 5:12 - He who has the Son has the life...*

The two biblical principles to remember:

Establish Scripture as the supreme authority for truth – *2 Tim. 3:15-17.*

Proclaim the Lord Jesus as the all-sufficient Savior – *Heb. 7:25; Acts 4:12.*



*2 Tim 2:24-26 – 24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

*2 Cor 4:3 - And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,*



## Resources...

- *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- *The Gospel According to Rome*, by James McCarthy
- *Standing Room Only*, by Philip De Courcy
- Newsletter – *Proclaiming the Gospel*, by Mike Gendron
- *Reasoning from the Scriptures with Catholics*, by Ron Rhodes.