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A Ministry of Teaching

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# **Questionnaire for Roman Catholics**

by

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Qs.1

The first bishop of Rome to take the title of, and to be called 'Pope', was (a) The apostle Peter in the first century (b) St. Stephen in the 3rd Century (c) Damasus in 4th century

Qs.2

What century was the celibacy of the priest made law?

(a) From the first century (b) 3rd century (c) AD 1079

Qs.3

The Roman Catholic religion has added extra 'apocryphal' books to the Bible. True / False

Qs.4

When were seven sacraments catalogued by the Roman church?

(a) In the first century with the apostle Peter (b) In the 3rd century with Constantine (c) In the 15th century at a church council

Qs.5

The Roman Catholic 'Mass' is said to be a continuing 'perpetuation' of the sacrifice of Christ. This was practised in the early church and is supported by the Bible. True / False

Qs.6

The Bible teaches a third state called 'Purgatory' where sins are purged before entering Heaven. True / False

## 11. False

Mary was a sinner like all of us. She brought her sin offering to the temple like all Jewish mothers, (Lev.12:6-8 - compare - Lk.2:21-24). No one but Jesus Christ is sinless (1Pet.2:22; 2Cor.5:21, Heb.4:15). '*all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God*' (Rom.3:23, see also 2Chr.6:36; 1Kngs.8:46; Eccl.7:20).

This doctrine was not taught till, at the earliest, the twelfth century by the British monk Eadmer. It was opposed by St. Bernard, Ambrose, Augustine, Pope Gregory The Great, Pope Innocent III, St. Peter Lombard and St.Thomas Aquinas. The Catholic Encyclopedia says: '*No direct and categorical and stringent proof of the dogma can be brought forward from scripture*' (P.675). The Bible teaches Mary needed a saviour for sin (Lk.1:47). The 'Immaculate Conception' was made 'infallible and official by Pius IX on December 8th, 1854.

## 12. False

The Catholic Encyclopedia says, '*There is little or no trace of the 'Hail Mary' as an accepted devotional formula before about AD 1050*' (Vol.7, P.111). Rosary prayer beads are of pagan origin and traced from the Mohammedans and introduced by Peter the Hermit in AD1090.

**\* The book 'To Catholics Whom I Love' (by Terry Arnold) details all of these questions and answers with historical and Biblical evidences (available from bookstores or TA Ministries).**

**'All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,...'** (2Timothy3:16).

**'Every word of God is pure...add you not unto His words'** (Proverbs 30:5,6).

**'He that rejects me, and receives not my words, has one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day'** (John 12:48).

### 8. False

Roman Catholic 'Confession' or 'reconciliation' to a priest was not heard of in the early church. Secret private confessions came much later in the Roman Church. The Roman Catholic religion admits '*Christ's words do not indeed mention secrecy...*' (*The Teaching Of The Catholic Church - A Summary of Catholic Doctrine* P.972). The Bible has no secret confession to a priest.

### 9. True

The Roman Catholic ten commandments deletes No.2 and splits number 10 into 2 thus still having ten commandments! The number two that is missing is the command not to have *idols* (Ex.20:4,5). The bible forbids idols (Ps.97:7). Scriptures about idolatry are numerous: Make no image of any kind - Ex.20:23,34:17; Lev.19:4,26:1; Dt.4:15-19,5:8-10,16:21-22,27:15; Do not bow to them - Ex.20:5; Lev.26:1; Turn not to them - Lev.19:4; Do not set them up - Lev. 26:1; Do not worship them or any other heavenly body - Dt.4:15-19; 2Kngs.17:16; Do not be deceived by them - Dt.11:16,12:30; Nu.35:52; Jdgs.17:5; 2Sam.5:21; Ps.139:15-18; Nu.33:52)...

### 10. False

Early Christians had *no* images or shrines. Early writers (Irenaeus, Clement, Origen, Cyprian, Athanasius, Jerome...) wrote against images, statues and any form of prayer or veneration to do with them. The Council of Constantinople unanimously decreed the removal of images and abolition of image worship. Gradually, however, over several hundred years, image worship began to grow and the Council of Nice re-established what the former Council had abolished! (See scriptures for Qs.9).

### Qs.7

The doctrine of 'Transubstantiation' (that the Bread and Wine becomes the real body and blood of Christ) was believed and practised by the early Christians and the post apostolic fathers.

True / False

### Qs.8

The Bible teaches private 'confession' of sins to a priest and that it is a 'sacrament' of the church.

True / False

### Qs.9

The Roman Catholic religion has a different set of 'ten commandments' than catalogued in the Bible.

True / False

### Qs.10

Idols and images of Jesus, Mary and the saints were found in the earliest of Christian churches.

True / False

### Qs.11

The Bible teaches Mary as the 'Immaculate Conception' - that she never sinned.

True / False

### Qs.12

Rosary Beads and the 'Hail Mary' prayer were used in the earliest of Christian churches.

True / False

## Answers to Questionnaire for Roman Catholics

### 1. (C) Damasus in 4th century.

Damasus was the first pope to be the official head of the church after the Emperor Gratian abdicated the title of 'Pontifex Maximus'. No bishop of Rome enjoyed any temporal power until the time of Constantine in the 3rd century; and before this time no bishop of Rome recognized any supreme hierarchy to be passed on within the church.

### 2. (C) AD 1079.

As early as AD 385 Pope Siricius forbade priests and deacons to have intercourse with their wives. But it was not until AD 1079 that celibacy of priests was made law - decreed by Pope Boniface VIII. The Bible has Peter and many of the apostles and ministers as married (Matt.8:14, Lk.4:38; 1Cor.9:5; 1Timothy 3:2).

### 3. True

In the 16th century the Roman Catholic religion added 'Apocryphal' books to the Bible to bolster new traditions. ('Apocryphal' means 'hidden' or 'doubtful'). These books were rejected by the early Jewish Church. They contain chronological, historical and geographical errors, and contradictions to the Word of God, (see the book 'To Catholics Whom I love')\*, and were never a part of the original inspired books of the Bible. Christ and the apostles never quoted from them. Jesus warned the religious leaders of the day about their traditions added to or contrary to the Word of God (Matt.15:3-10).

### 4. (C) In the 15th century at a church council.

The Roman Catholic religion cannot date the sacramental system before St. Augustine who died A.D. 430. These sacraments were in fact not catalogued as seven till the year 1150 by Peter Lombard and decreed in 1439 at the Council of Florence.

### 5. False

The 'Mass' was instituted at the end of the third century (attributed to St. Cyprian as having changed this original celebration). The 'Mass' is said to be a *perpetuation of the sacrifice of the cross*. At every 'Mass' Christ is sacrificed again. However, the Bible states clearly that Christ died 'once' (Heb.9:25,26; 10:10,18). Before dying on the cross, Jesus said 'It is finished' (Jn.19:30). In the book of Hebrews there is a warning against 'crucifying to themselves the Son of God afresh (again), and put Him to an open shame' (Heb.6:6).

### 6. False

No Scripture mentions or supports 'Purgatory'. The Bible says there is a 'great gulf' between Heaven and Hell (Lk.16:19-31). The doctrine was not a part of the Church until about AD 600 when Pope Gregory the Great began speaking of a 'third state'. The dogma was officially defined in 1439 at the Council of Florence and restated at the Council of Vatican II. The Catholic religion admits 'The doctrine of Purgatory was not learned from the texts in the scripture but these texts were written by men...' ('The Teaching Of The Catholic Church - A Summary of Catholic Doctrine', P.1166). The early church Fathers, Augustine, etc. did not find Purgatory in the Bible.

### 7. False

'Transubstantiation' was made doctrine in 1215. The Roman Catholic 'Eucharist' was first formulated by Paschasius Radbertus, at the beginning of the ninth century. The Catholic religion admits that 'The fathers, likewise, do not conceive of the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in this sacrament apart from the conversion of the bread and wine into them...The word transubstantiation did not come till much later, when theologians had the leisure and opportunity to realise all that was involved in the Eucharistic miracle'. ('The Teaching Of The Catholic Church - A Summary of Catholic Doctrine', P.858). Many English protestant martyrs lost their lives because they refused to accept this doctrine. The Catholic religion says this doctrine is 'essential to salvation'.