

# Catholics and Evangelicals How Different Are We?

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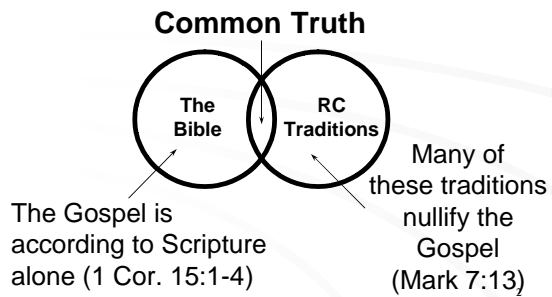
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## Evangelicals & Catholics Share Some Fundamentals of the Faith



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## Catholics and Evangelicals Also Have Divisive Differences

1. A different authority
2. A different Bible
3. A different Jesus
4. A different Gospel
5. A different view of sin
6. A different order of salvation
7. A different path to eternity
8. A different faith



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## 1. A Different Authority

### **Evangelicals**

- Scripture is the supreme authority in all matters of faith

### **Catholics**

- Three authorities are said to be equal -
  - 1) Scripture
  - 2) Tradition
  - 3) Infallible bishops and popes

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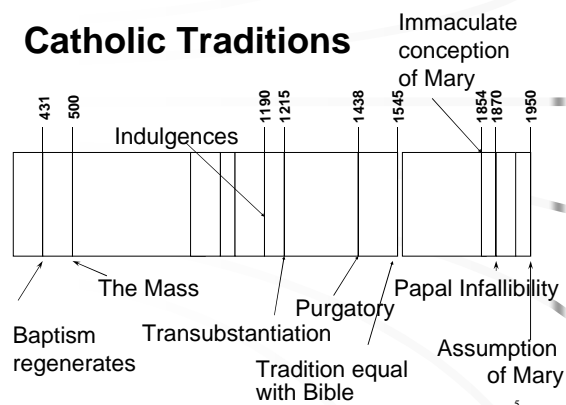
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## Catholic Traditions



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## Catholics Have Arguments for the Authority of Their Tradition

- So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us (2 Thes. 2:15).
- Now I praise you because you remember me in everything, and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you (1 Cor. 11:2).

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**How Should Evangelicals Respond?**  
*We Must Establish Scripture as the Supreme Authority*

Scripture

Tradition

Magisterium

Roman Catholicism Says These Three Authorities Are Equal (CCC, 95) <sup>7</sup>

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**How Should Evangelicals Respond?**

- Show how Scripture tested the veracity of an apostle's teaching. (Acts 17:11)
- Show how religion becomes corrupt when Scripture is nullified by traditions of men. (Mark 7:13, Col. 2:8)
- Show how Scripture proved Peter was fallible. (Mat. 16:23; Gal. 2:11-14)

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**Catholics Believe Peter was their First Pope**

- When Cornelius met Peter, he fell at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am just a man" (Acts 10:22).
- Pope Benedict appears to have a different opinion.

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## 2. A Different Bible

### **Evangelicals**

- Sixty six books make up the complete, inspired Word of God

### **Catholics**

- Sixth-six books *plus* the Apocryphal books added to the Canon in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century
- The Word of God is also found outside the Bible in Sacred Tradition (CCC, 97)

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## How Should Evangelicals Respond?

- Use their Bible as you share the Gospel because their clergy tells them not to trust anything not bearing the Catholic imprimatur.
- Share Scriptures from the Romans Road.
- Ask them what God is saying to them.

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## 3. A Different Jesus

### **Biblical Jesus provides...**

- 📖 eternal life
- 📖 complete forgiveness
- 📖 permanent right standing with God
- 📖 peace and assurance

### **Catholic Jesus provides...**

- ⚡ conditional life
- ⚡ partial forgiveness, residual sin remains
- ⚡ continuous striving to gain God's acceptance
- ⚡ uncertainty, fear, doubt and a false hope

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## The Jesus of Catholicism



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## How Should Evangelicals Respond?

- Show them Jesus, the perfect High Priest, offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice, once for all sin for all time. His offering is not to be done again. (Heb. 9 and 10)
- There are no more offerings for sin which makes the Catholic Mass an ungodly deception that holds millions in bondage.



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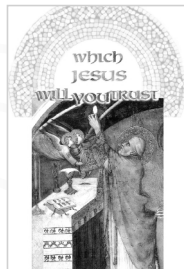
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## How Should Evangelicals Respond?

- Show them Jesus is the all-sufficient Savior who save sinners completely and forever. (Heb. 7:25)
- Show them our tract and DVD entitled "*Which Jesus Will You Trust?*"



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## 4. A Different Gospel

### **Biblical Salvation**      **Catholic Salvation**

- is 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)
- ❖ is by faith **plus**:
- ❖ sacraments (1129)
- ❖ the Mass (1405)
- ❖ purgatory (1030)
- ❖ indulgences (1498)
- ❖ baptism (1256)
- ❖ law keeping (2068)
- ❖ good works (2016)

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### **Catholicism teaches sinners are saved ...**

- **for** the glory of God plus Mary and the saints
- **from** some of sin's punishment but not all
- **by** faith plus works
- **through** the sacraments
- **because** of their priest's intercession
- **on the basis** of Christ's ongoing work plus their own good works
- **at the moment** of baptism
- **until** the next mortal sin is committed

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### **How Should Evangelicals Respond?**

#### **Declare sinners are saved...**

- **for** the glory of God alone (Eph. 2:7)
- **from** all of sin's penalty & power (Rom. 5:8; 6:18)
- **by** God's grace, not works (Eph. 2:8-9)
- **through** faith in Jesus (John 3:36)
- **Because** of His love & mercy (Titus 3:5; Rom. 5:8)
- **only on the basis** of Christ's death and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-4)
- **at the moment** of faith (Eph. 1:13-14)
- **throughout** all eternity (Heb. 5:9; Rev. 22:3-5)

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### **The Gospel is Veiled Until They Turn to Christ (2 Cor. 3:16)**

Paul said, "If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (2 Cor. 4:3-4)

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### **5. A Different View of Sin**

- Different Form of Punishment  
There are some sins, called venial, that do not cause eternal death. (CCC, 1855)
- Different Means of Purification  
Indulgences and the cleansing fire of Purgatory. (1030)
- Different Means of Forgiveness  
Catholics must make satisfaction for their sins - penance. (1459)

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### **How Should Evangelicals Respond?**

- Show them all sins are mortal and punished by death. (Rom. 6:23; Ez. 18:4; Gen. 217)
- Show them sin can only be purified by the blood of Jesus. (1 John 1:7; Heb. 9:22)
- Show them Jesus made satisfaction for the sins of every believer. (Rom. 3:25)

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## 6. A Different Order of Salvation

### The Catholic Order

- Priest baptizes which causes regeneration and justification
- Priest hears confession and absolves sin
- Priest dispenses the body & blood of Jesus in the Eucharist
- Priest imparts the Holy Spirit in Confirmation
- Priest gives Last Rites
- Priest offers Mass for souls suffering in purgatory

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## The Biblical Order of Salvation

- 📖 The Father chooses and draws the elect (John 6:44; Eph. 1:4)
- 📖 The Holy Spirit convicts and illuminates the Word (John 16:8-11; 13-15)
- 📖 The Lord Jesus is proclaimed through His Word (Rom. 10:17)
- 📖 God grants repentance and gives the gift of faith unto salvation (Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 2:25)

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## The Biblical Order of Salvation

- 📖 Jesus forgives and purifies all sin and gives His righteousness as a gift (1 Cor. 1:30)
- 📖 The Holy Spirit sanctifies, seals, indwells and empowers the believer (Eph. 1:13-14, Rom. 8; 2 Thes. 2:13)
- 📖 The Father keeps and glorifies those He justifies (John 10:29; Rom. 8:30)
- 📖 God alone is deserving of all glory! (Rom. 11:36)

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## How Should Evangelicals Respond?

- Show them God initiates salvation and He will carry it through to completion. (Phil. 1:6)
- Show them Jesus is the only mediator between God and man; this shows the Catholic clergy is spurious and unnecessary. (1 Tim. 2:5)

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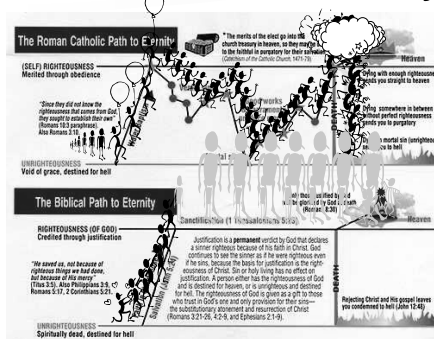
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## 7. A Different Path to Eternity



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## How Should Evangelicals Respond?

**Show them the Narrow Way compared to the Broad Way**

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 📖 leads to life                      | ✦ leads to destruction                        |
| 📖 few find it                        | ✦ many are on it                              |
| 📖 difficult, must strive to enter it | ✦ easy, follow anyone other than Jesus        |
| 📖 by grace & God's righteousness     | ✦ by good works, merit and self-righteousness |

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## 8. A Distinctively Different Faith

### *Evangelicals & Catholics are Divided on...*

- the supreme authority for faith
- the essentials of the Gospel
- how one is born again
- how one is justified
- how one is purified of sin
- who mediates between God and man
- the efficacy, sufficiency and necessity of Jesus



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## How Should Evangelicals Respond?

- Approach Catholics with love, compassion, patience and humility.
- Follow the example of Jesus by asking questions to expose their religious errors.
- Stay focused on Jesus, His Word and His sufficiency to save sinners completely.
- Have a sense of urgency but be sensitive to the Spirit's leading.

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## Do You *Really* Believe in Jesus?

1. Do you trust His Word or the traditions of men?
2. Do you submit to His authority as Lord or to another authority?
3. Do you trust His power and promise to keep you or your faithfulness to Him?
4. Do you trust His finished work or the Sacraments?

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Do You *Really* Believe in Jesus?

- 5. Do you trust His complete pardon for sins or penance and indulgences?
- 6. Do you trust His imputed righteousness or your goodness?
- 7. Do you trust His grace & mercy for salvation or your good works?
- 8. Do you trust His blood for the purification of sins or purgatory?
- 9. Do you believe He is the only way?

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