

**Differences Between
Catholicism
And
Christianity**

基督教和天主教的区别

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6. Other Items

The Catholic Church changed Bible teaching and established their own teaching. In A.D. 394 they began using the liturgy of the Mass to replace the Lord's Supper as instituted by Jesus Christ. The use of "extreme unction" dates to A.D. 588, and their teaching about purgatory to A.D. 593. The Catholics accepted transubstantiation about A.D. 1000; this means that when a priest presides over the Eucharist (Lord's Supper), the bread and the wine become the real body and blood of Christ. In A.D. 1015, priests lost the right to marry. In A.D. 1311, Roman Catholics all over the world accepted sprinkling instead of immersion for baptism. In addition to these things, there are also other examples of how the Catholic Church has changed Bible teaching, just as the Bible itself prophesied: "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith..." (1 Timothy 4:1).

7. Conclusion

The Roman Catholic Church claims to be the oldest church, the original church, the church established by Jesus Christ. From what we have seen, however, the Catholic Church is not the original church. There is a big difference between the Catholic Church and the church that is described in the New Testament. Please spend some time yourself and compare the Catholic Church with the church you read about in the Bible. I believe you will be able to see that there are many differences between these two churches: different heads; different organization; different views regarding Peter and Mary; different teachings about salvation; different history. May God bless you in your quest for truth.

If you are interested in the Bible and want to understand it more fully, please write me or enroll in World Christian Broadcasting's Bible correspondence course. If you have already decided to become a Christian, according to the Bible, you should believe in Jesus as the Son of God, believe that he was resurrected from death, and repent of your sins. (When a person understands that God loves him and believes that Jesus died for him, he will determine to repent of sins and begin a new life.) You also should confess your faith that Jesus is the Son of God and then be baptized. Baptism is an immersion of your entire body in water. The purpose of baptism is to enable you to receive the grace of God and to contact the holy blood of Jesus. When you are baptized, at that moment, God washes away your sins and saves your soul. At the same time, God himself adds you to his church and makes you a Christian. God also gives you his Holy Spirit and makes your body a temple of that Spirit.

六。其他

天主教更改圣经的原则而自定的规条也包括以下的这些事例：公元 394 年开始用“弥撒圣餐礼”代替耶稣基督设立的“主餐。”公元 588 年使用“涂油礼”；593 年教导有“炼狱”这事。公元 1000 年左右天主教开始传讲“化体论”；意思是神父主办圣餐的时候，饼和杯变成真的身体和真的血。公元 1015 年开始不准神父结婚。公元 1311 年，全球的罗马天主教都接受“点水礼”代表浸水礼。除此以外天主教还有其他更改圣经的事例，就如新约圣经自己所预言的一样：“圣灵明说，在后来的时候，必有人离弃真道...”（提摩太前书 4:1）。

七。结论

罗马天主教自称它是历史上最早的教会、是原来的教会，是耶稣基督所建造的教会，但是由以上所写的可知，天主教并不是原来的教会。天主教跟新约圣经所记载的教会有很大的不同。读者，请您自己花些时间把天主教和您在新约圣经里面所读到的教会作个对比，好吗？我相信您会看得出来两个教会有很多不同的地方。头不同：组织不同：对彼得和玛利亚的看法不同：有关得救的教导不同：历史也不同。愿神赐福给您。

如果您对《圣经》有兴趣，要多了解它，请写信给我，或参加《生命之光》的《圣经函授课程》。如果您已经决定要成为基督徒，按照《圣经》的教训您需要相信耶稣是神的儿子，相信他从死里复活了，您要悔改您的罪孽。（一个人明白神怎么样爱他，相信耶稣为他舍命时，他就会下决心悔改，作个新造的人。）您还要承认耶稣为神的儿子，而且要受洗。受洗的意思是在水里面受浸。这是全身投入水中的洗礼。受浸的目的是让您得到神的恩典，使您接触耶稣的圣血。当您受浸时，上帝就在那时刻洗掉您的罪孽，拯救您的灵魂。在受浸的同时，神自己会把您加入到他的教会里头，让您变成一个基督徒。神也把他的圣灵赐给您，使得您的身体作为圣灵的殿。如果您要多了解这个真理，请写信给我。

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有人写信问我有关基督教和天主教的区别。此问题很复杂，所以不能在一两页里把它谈完。因此以下所写的只是此问题的一小部分而已。

一。把问题弄清楚

有关基督教和天主教的区别，准确的问题是：“天主教和耶稣基督所建立的教会，也就是圣经所记载的教会，有什么区别？”，而不是：“天主教和一般宗派教会有何不同？天主教和离开了圣经原则的教会、也就是改变圣经教导的教会，有什么区别？”我们回答此文章所讨论的问题时，必须用神的标准来衡量天主教，不应该用人的标准来衡量天主教。换句话说，我们不能让今天上百的宗派教会当作我们的标准来判断天主教；我们要让新约圣经成为我们的标准。

二。权威

天主教和基督教最基本的区别是“权威。”在宗教领域中，什么是“权威”呢？圣经这本书就是基督徒最高的权威，但是天主教徒不但要尊敬圣经，他们还要听从罗马教宗（教皇）的命令和天主教“传统”的教导。换句话说，天主教的头是个人，所以天主教徒要听从一个人；基督教的头是耶稣基督，所以基督教徒要听从神。圣经哪个经节提到“教皇”呢？圣经里面没有“教皇”此词。

如果问天主教徒一个问题，他可能回答你说：“我们的教会如此说...”或“教会的神父如此说...”或“教皇如此说...”或“我们天主教的传统是...”但是如果问基督徒同样的问题，他应该回答你如：“圣经如此说...”或“耶稣基督如此教导我们...”天主教徒引用、听从教皇的话；基督徒引用、听从圣经作者的话。

天主教有很多仪式并没有圣经的根据。如果问他们为什么如此作，他们只好说是天主教的传统。比方，天主教有时向耶稣的母亲玛利亚祷告，但是圣经哪里有人向玛利亚祷告？没有这回事。天主教徒只能说：“天主教多年来都是这样作，是某某教皇许可的。”他们没有办法说：“圣经某书某章某节教导我们向玛利亚祷告。”

目前为止，中国的天主教不承认罗马的教宗，但是他们一样选了一个人作教会的头，一样接受圣经之外的教导和传统。

三。彼得

天主教说耶稣把他的教会建造在使徒彼得的头上；他们认为彼得是教会的头、相信彼得是第一个教皇。在马太福音 16:15-18，耶稣基督预言有关他的教会：“耶稣说：“你们说我是谁？”西门彼得

[the Queen of China]. When I went to Italy in 2001, I visited a number of Roman Catholic Church buildings, and I could not help noticing the position given Mary in each of these buildings. It appears that Catholics place Mary higher than Jesus. Believers appeal to Mary for help and deliverance, and they pray to her. In the New Testament, however, Mary does not occupy such a position. Mary is not the sinless Lamb of God, she was not nailed to a cross for our sins and she is not our savior.

The New Testament tells us that Mary was a good person. It is a fact that, when Mary conceived and gave birth to Jesus, she was a virgin (Luke 1:26-38). However, Catholic teaching that Mary had no children other than Jesus is not correct. Catholics believe that Mary had no sexual relations with her husband Joseph either before they married or after; they believe that Mary perpetuated her virginity following the death of Joseph, and until she left this earth herself. However, the names of Jesus' younger brothers are recorded in the New Testament (in Mark 6:3), and the same passage mentions Jesus' younger sisters as well. This indicates that, following their marriage (and following the birth of Jesus), Joseph and Mary enjoyed the same relations that married couples normally do. The letters of the New Testament do not exalt Mary, and the Bible does not tell us that we can pray to Mary. That God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Word who became flesh, confirms that Mary was a righteous person, but she was not a "saint" (in the Roman Catholic usage of the word), and she is not the savior of the world. We ought to revere Mary, but we must not allow her to replace Jesus.

5. Salvation

What does the Catholic Church teach regarding salvation? How is one saved? The Catholic Church follows the Bible and recognizes the divinity of Jesus, that Jesus is the Son of God, that Jesus was crucified and that he was resurrected from death. However, the Catholic Church also believes in "original sin." But the term "original sin" is not in the Bible. Catholics baptize infants (by sprinkling) in order to forgive their so-called "original sin," but the Bible does not teach us to baptize infants. Catholics believe that adults (if not baptized in infancy) should repent and be baptized, but they do not believe that such baptism should be a total immersion in water (see Colossians 2:12 and Romans 6:4). Catholics believe that their priests receive authority from God and from the Catholic Church to forgive sins. (Note that 1 Peter 2:9 teaches that all Christians are priests. As such, all have the privilege of praying to God and asking him to forgive sins; only God can forgive sins.) Catholics believe that man's "good works" help him to be saved. However, Ephesians 2:8-10 teaches us that salvation "...is not by works..." The good works that Christians do are the natural results of their being saved, not the basis upon which they obtain salvation.

大利旅行时, 参观很多罗马天主教堂。在每一个教堂里面不能不注意玛利亚圣母所站的地位。看起来, 天主教时常把玛利亚摆在耶稣之上。信徒向玛利亚求助, 求救, 向她祷告等。但是, 在新约圣经里面, 玛利亚不站此角色。玛利亚不是神无罪的羔羊, 她没有为我们的罪被钉死, 她也不是我们的救主。

新约圣经告诉我们玛利亚是一位好人。怀孕生子时, 玛利亚就是一位童贞女, 这话是真的 (路加福音 1:26-38)。但是天主教所说的, 除了耶稣以外玛利亚没有生别的孩子这个说法, 是错的。天主教相信玛利亚婚前婚后却没有跟他的丈夫约瑟同过房; 等到约瑟死了以后, 玛利亚守贞节一直到他离开世界。但是新约圣经马可福音 6 章 3 节告诉我们耶稣几个弟弟的名字, 也提到他的妹妹, 表示约瑟和玛利亚结婚以后 (生耶稣基督以后) 就享受一般夫妻之间的性生活。新约圣经的书信没有高举玛利亚; 圣经没有告诉我们可以向玛利亚祷告。神拣选玛利亚为道成肉身耶稣基督的母亲表示她是一位义人, 但玛利亚不是“圣人”, 也不是世人的救主。我们应该尊敬玛利亚, 但是不可以让她取代耶稣。

五。救恩

天主教如何教导人们得救呢? 天主教接受圣经的教导, 相信耶稣的神性, 相信他是神的儿子, 相信耶稣的十字架, 相信耶稣复活了。但是天主教也相信“原罪。”圣经没有“原罪”这词。天主教为新生儿施洗 (撒水礼) 为了赦免所谓“原罪”, 但是圣经并没有教导我们为婴儿施洗。天主教相信成人要悔改受洗, 但是不相信受洗是全身投入水中的浸礼 (见新约圣经歌罗西书 2:12, 罗马书 6:4)。天主教认为“神父”从神和天主教会得权柄赦免人的罪。(新约圣经彼得前书 2:9 教导我们说所有的基督徒都是祭司, 在神的面前都有特权祷告, 祈求神赦免自己的罪孽: 只有神才能赦免人的罪。) 天主教相信人的“善功”帮助他得救。但是新约圣经以弗所书 2:8-10 教导我们, 救恩“...不是出于行为...”基督徒的善行是他得救的自然结果, 而不是他蒙恩得救的基础。

In letters sent me from listeners to World Christian Broadcasting radio programs, I am sometimes asked about the differences between Catholicism and Christianity. This question is very complex and cannot be fully answered within the space of a page or two. Consequently, the following is only a small part of a much larger and more complicated question.

1. What is the Standard?

"What is the difference between Catholicism and the church that was established by Jesus Christ?" In answering this question, we must measure Catholicism by God's standard, not by man's. The standard we should use is the New Testament.

2. Authority

The most basic difference between Catholicism and Christianity is "authority." In the area of religion, what is our "authority?" The highest authority for Christians is the Bible. However, Catholics not only respect the Bible, they must also obey both the Pope in Rome and the traditions of the Catholic Church as well. In other words, the head of the Catholic Church is a man, so Catholics must obey a man. The head of Christianity, however, is Jesus Christ, so Christians must obey God. Where in the Bible can one find the word "Pope?" The word is not in the Bible.

If you ask a Catholic a question, perhaps he will reply: "My church says...", or "One of the priests says...", or "The Pope says...", or "The Catholic tradition is..." However, if you ask a Christian the very same question, he should reply: "The Bible says...", or "Jesus Christ teaches us..." Catholics quote and obey the Pope; Christians quote and obey the Bible.

There are many ceremonies in the Catholic Church that have no basis in the Bible. If you ask them why they do these things, they can only say that they are part of the tradition in the Catholic Church. For example, Catholics pray to Mary the mother of Jesus, but where in the Bible does anyone pray to Mary? There is no such prayer in the Bible. Catholics can only say, "Catholics have done this for many years; it was approved by Pope such-and-such." They are unable to say that a certain chapter and a certain verse in Scripture teaches us to pray to Mary.

At the present, the Catholic Church in China does not recognize the Pope in Rome, however they too have a man as the head of that church. They too accept teachings and traditions that are outside of the Bible.

3. Peter

The Catholic Church teaches that Jesus built his church on the apostle Peter. Catholics believe that Peter was the head of the church and was the first Pope. In Matthew 16:15-18, Jesus Christ prophesied concerning his church: Jesus said, "Who do you say that I am?" Simon

回答说：“你是基督，是永生神的儿子。”耶稣对他说：“西门巴约拿，你是有福的！因为这不是属血肉的指示你的，乃是我在天上的父指示你的。我还告诉你，你是彼得，我要把我的教会建造在这磐石上；阴间的权柄不能胜过他。我要把天国的钥匙给你，凡你在地上所捆绑的，在天上也要捆绑；凡你在地上所释放的，在天上也要释放。”

在此经文耶稣所说的，“我要把我的教会建造在这磐石上”一句，给解经家一个挑战。耶稣的“这”一字是什么意思呢？有三个可能：

① 耶稣指自己说自己是教会的磐石。② 耶稣指彼得刚才所说的话“你是基督，是永生神的儿子”为教会的磐石。③ 耶稣指彼得本人说他是教会的磐石。天主教相信第三个解释。但是基督徒并不赞同：他们认为耶稣没有把教会建造在彼得的身上。以弗所书和歌罗西书都说耶稣基督是教会的头。在新约圣经里面没有人把彼得称呼是教会的头，教会的磐石。事实上有一次使徒保罗指出彼得的错来（加拉太书 2:11-21），责备他。如果彼得是教会的头，他会需要人责备他吗？如果他是教会的磐石，人敢责备他吗？

没错，彼得是教会主要的柱子，但是他不是教会的头：耶稣也没有把教会建造在彼得一人的身上。耶稣说：“我要把天国的钥匙给你...”是的。在五旬节（使徒行传 2 章）神建立教会时，讲道，说服 3000 位成为基督徒的就是彼得，所以神给彼得一个特权，让他用属灵的钥匙打开天国的门，在耶稣复活之后传第一次的福音：（注意：当天其他的使徒都讲道，但是或许彼得是主要的讲员：路加把彼得的讲道词写下来。）彼得打开了天国的门，但是他不是教会的头，也不是第一个教皇。

天主教说：“圣彼得被称第一任教皇...”（吉朋 87）。天主教又说：“神至为关切的的就是统治教会，他已经授予彼得及彼得的继承人，在罗马的主教权，及所有属于基督的权柄，代表基督在地上亲自掌管这地”（纽曼 1:508）。请注意：这都是天主教的说法，不是圣经的教导或记载。

四。玛利亚

天主教崇拜耶稣的母亲玛利亚，把她看成“无原罪童贞圣母。”香港的天主教徒把玛利亚看成“中华之后。”2001 年，本文作者去意

Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (NIV).

The words of Jesus, "on this rock I will build my church," are a challenge to those who would interpret the Bible. What did Jesus mean by the word "this"? I see three possibilities. First, Jesus may have pointed to himself when he uttered the words "this rock." Second, Jesus may have referred to the sentence just spoken by Peter, namely that "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Third, Jesus may have pointed to Peter and indicated that Peter was the rock upon which the church of Jesus would be built. Catholics believe the third interpretation. Christians, however, do not agree; Christians do not believe that Jesus built the church on Peter. The New Testament books of Ephesians and Colossians both teach us that Jesus is the head of the church. In the entire New Testament, no one called Peter the head of the church or the rock upon which it was built. In fact, there is even one example when the apostle Paul told Peter that he was wrong; Peter reprimanded Paul (Galatians 2:11-21). If Peter was the rock upon which the church was built, would anyone dare rebuke him?

In truth, Peter was a very important pillar in the [early] church, but he was not the head of it. Jesus did not build his church on Peter as a single individual. Jesus said, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven..." And so, on Pentecost (recorded in Acts, chapter two), when God established his church, who preached and converted some 3,000 people to become Christians? Yes, it was Peter. Thus God gave Peter the privilege of using the spiritual keys to open the door to the kingdom of heaven and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus for the first time following his resurrection. (Please note that on Pentecost the other apostles also preached. Perhaps, however, Peter was the main speaker, since it was Peter's speech that Luke recorded in Acts.) Peter opened the door to the kingdom of heaven but he was not the head of the church; neither was he the first Pope.

The Catholic Church states, "Saint Peter was the first pope..." (Ji Peng 87) The Church also says that God rules the church but that Peter and Peter's successors, the bishops of Rome, have received all the authority of Christ, as the representatives of Christ on earth (Niu Man 1:508). Please note that these statements are from the Catholic Church; they are neither Biblical statements nor Biblical teaching.

4. Mary

Catholics worship (or venerate) Mary, the mother of Jesus. They describe her as "the holy mother, a virgin, without original sin." The Catholic Church of Hong Kong refers to Mary as "Zhong hua zhi hou"