

Gods, Gurus, and the Good News

November 30, 2025

Catholicism - Another Gospel?

How Many Catholics are There in the United States?
(Based on 267,000,000 Adults in America)

Twelve Things the Catholic Church Gets Wrong!

1. Salvation plus works.
2. Baptism removes original sin and brings about salvation/justification.
3. Veneration of Mary (perpetual virginity, Assumption, and Mediatrix)
4. Jesus had no other siblings.
5. Prayers to the dead and for the dead.
6. Purgatory.
7. Transubstantiation (bread and wine is Jesus' actual body and blood).
8. The Pope's and the bishops' infallibility when speaking "ex cathedra" (from the chair of "Peter").
9. Church's "Tradition" equal with the Bible in devotion and reverence.
10. Penance and Indulgences
11. Peter as the foundation upon which the Catholic Church was built.
12. Mortal (grave) and venial sins and they must be confessed to a priest.

Major Differences Between Roman Catholicism vs Orthodox Christianity

Other Beliefs of Roman Catholicism

Belief	Roman Catholicism	Orthodox Christianity
Perpetual Virginity of Mary	"The deepening of faith in the virginal motherhood led the Church to confess Mary's real and perpetual virginity..." *	No evidence in Scripture or otherwise.
Bodily Assumption of Mary	"...the Immaculate Virgin ... was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory..." *	No evidence in Scripture or otherwise.
Papal Infallibility	"When the Roman Pontiff speaks "ex cathedra" [from the chair]... he is, by divine assistance promised to him, preserved from the possibility of error."	No evidence in Scripture or otherwise.
Transubstantiation	The Eucharist, the substance of the bread and wine is miraculously changed into the actual body and blood of Jesus Christ, while the physical appearances of bread and wine remain.	No evidence in Scripture or otherwise.
Existence of Purgatory	Purgatory is a temporary state of purification for souls who die in God's grace and friendship but are still imperfectly purified.	No evidence in Scripture or otherwise.

Gods, Gurus, and the Good News

November 30, 2025

Other Beliefs of Roman Catholicism

Belief	Roman Catholicism	Orthodox Christianity
Perpetual Virginity of Mary	“The deepening of faith in the virginal motherhood led the Church to confess Mary’s real and perpetual virginity...” *	No evidence in Scripture or otherwise.
Bodily Assumption of Mary	“...the Immaculate Virgin ... was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory...” *	No evidence in Scripture or otherwise.
Papal Infallibility	“When the Roman Pontiff speaks “ex cathedra” [from the chair]... he is, by divine assistance promised to him, preserved from the possibility of error.”	No evidence in Scripture or otherwise.
Transubstantiation	The Eucharist, the substance of the bread and wine is miraculously changed into the actual body and blood of Jesus Christ, while the physical appearances of bread and wine remain.	No evidence in Scripture or otherwise.
Existence of Purgatory	Purgatory is a temporary state of purification for souls who die in God’s grace and friendship but are still imperfectly purified.	No evidence in Scripture or otherwise.

Mary, the Perpetual Sinless Virgin

The Catholic Church holds Mary was sinless and a perpetual virgin all her life:

- CCC491 “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.” (cf. CCC493)
- CCC499: “...the Church to confess Mary’s real and perpetual virginity even in the act of giving birth to the Son of God made man. In fact, Christ’s birth ‘did not diminish his mother’s virginal integrity but sanctified it.’”

The Catholic Church holds that Mary did not have other children:

- CCC501: “Jesus is Mary’s only son, but her spiritual motherhood extends to all men...”
- CCC500 states that “...’the brothers of Jesus,” are the sons of another Mary [not Mary the mother of Jesus]...”

Absolutely no evidence from the Bible for these beliefs.

Mary Had No Other Children Than Jesus

The Bible is clear that Jesus had brothers and sisters birthed by Mary:

- *(Matthew 13:55-56)*: “Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is His mother not called Mary, and His brothers, James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us?” (cf. Mark 3:31-35, 6:3; John 7:3; Acts 1:14;)
- Paul refers to Jesus’ brother in Galatians 1:19: “But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord’s brother. (cf. 1 Cor. 9:5)
- Each incident above the Greek word “adelphos” (blood brother) was used.

Gods, Gurus, and the Good News

November 30, 2025

- Catholic Church claims that these were “cousins” not blood brothers. However, the Greek word for cousins is “anepsios.”

Why wouldn't Jesus have said, “I do not have any brothers” in Matthew 12:46-50?

- “...Someone said to Him, ‘Behold, Your mother and Your brothers [“adelphos”] are standing outside seeking to speak to You.’ But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, ‘Who is My mother and who are My brothers?’ And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, ‘Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.’” [He was teaching, not denying these were His brothers and His mother.]

Why might this be important to show that Mary did in fact have other children?

- This is often where many Catholics get their first taste of the Catholic Church lying to them.
- It can cause them to question other areas of Catholic beliefs.

Mary and The Assumption

The Catholic Church Holds That Mary Was Taken Body and Soul Directly to Heaven:

- CCC966: “Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory...”
- Pope Pius XII: “It is forbidden to any man to change this [dispute the Assumption] ...let him know that he will incur the wrath of Almighty God and of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul.”

Mary's Roles in Grace, Salvation, and Intercessor (Mediatix)

The Catholic Church has given Mary several titles, which cause Catholics to pray to her:

- “Mother of the Church,’ ‘Queen Over All Things,’ ‘Mediatix’ (intercessor), and ‘Mother of Mercy, the All Holy One.’” (CCC493; 494; 963; 966; 969; 970; 2030; & 2677)
- CCC969: “...she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation...under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatix [Intercessor].”

Bible: Only one mediator/intercessor (Christ): I Timothy 2:5: “For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus.”

Bible: Only one in which our salvation rests: Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Mary's Veneration in the Rosary

The Rosary serves several purposes:

- It is used for prayers to venerate Mary.

Gods, Gurus, and the Good News

November 30, 2025

- It is used for prayers to work as “penance” for sins.
- The Rosary is considered “the epitome of the whole Gospel” CCC971
- The prayer to Mary: *“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen”*
- Catholics are to say this prayer for each of the 50 beads and after every 10, they are to say the Lord’s Prayer.

Does Baptism Save the Catholic?

Baptism is necessary:

- CCC1257 “The Lord himself affirms that Baptism is necessary for salvation...”
- CCC1257 “...The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude...”

Except!:

- CCC1260 “...Every man who is ignorant of the Gospel of Christ and of his Church, but seeks the truth and does the will of God in accordance with his understanding of it, can be saved. It may be supposed that such person would have *desired Baptism explicitly* if they had known its necessity.”

Catholic Salvation: Faith Plus Works

Salvation is a complicated mixture of the Catholic Church’s teachings, which requires baptism + faith + observing the sacraments + catechism + charity (good works) + confession (no unconfessed sin) + penances/indulgences + loyalty to the Catholic Church + other good works.

- CCC 161: Faith in Christ is a requirement, but faith alone does not save (no Sola Fide).
- CCC 1129: “The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are *necessary for salvation*.” The seven sacraments are: (1) Baptism, (2) Eucharist (Lord’s Supper), (3) Confession (includes penance and indulgences), (4) Confirmation, (5) Anointing the sick, (6) Holy Orders (special graces for priests and deacons to minister sacraments and teach the faith), and (7) Matrimony (marriage).
- Numerous references to good works (often stated as “charity”) are required: CCC837 “They are saved who, persevering in charity, and keeping the commandments, remain in the bosom of the Church.” (cf. 1821)

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

Catholic Salvation: Penance!

Penances are a component of salvation:

- Penance is a way for the Catholic believer to obtain forgiveness of sins.
- Penance can take many forms.

Gods, Gurus, and the Good News

November 30, 2025

- According to CCC1434 penance can be reconciling with a neighbor, tears of repentance, concern for the salvation of a neighbor, prayers to the saints, acts of charity, reading the Bible, and praying parts of the liturgy.
- During confession, the priest may suggest penance(s) for the penitent to perform including praying the rosary.

Forgiveness was accomplished once: Hebrews 10:10: “By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

Catholic Salvation: Penance!

Indulgences are a component of salvation:

- CCC1471 “An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven...through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.”
- Sins for the Catholic can have two consequences, temporal and eternal.
- A “Grave [mortal] sin deprives us of communion with God and therefore makes us incapable of eternal life...” CCC1472

Indulgences for lesser sins (venial) are also a component of salvation:

- CCC1472: “...even venial sin [lesser sins], entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death in the state called Purgatory... This purification frees one from what is called the ‘temporal punishment’ of sin.”
- Two types of indulgences: **Partial indulgence**: A remission of *part* of the temporal punishment. **Plenary indulgence**: A remission of *all* the temporal punishment required for sin.
- Forgiveness for either the mortal or venial sins comes through the indulgences from the “Church’s Treasury.”
- The “Church’s Treasury” includes Christ’s merits, prayers, and good works of the Virgin Mary and the saints.

Specific Indulgences Requirements:

- Be in the state of grace (i.e., no unconfessed mortal sin).
- Have *interior* detachment from all sin – even venial sin (for plenary).
- Sacramental confession (usually within a reasonable time period).
- Reception of Holy Communion (on the same day, if possible).
- Prayer for the intentions of the Pope (or the Holy Father’s intentions).
- Perform the specific work of the indulgence: for example, reading Scripture for at least half an hour; Eucharistic adoration for half an hour; reciting the Rosary in a church or in a family or association; etc.
- The official indulgences are listed in the Enchiridion Indulgentiarum available online or as a hard copy (Available on Amazon)

Purgatory

For the Catholic Believer Who Does Not Have Unconfessed Grave/Mortal Sins:

- Catholic Church holds that Catholics will go to Purgatory when they die for an indefinite period.

Gods, Gurus, and the Good News

November 30, 2025

- First formulated at the Councils of Florence (1439) and then later at the Council of Trent (1563 AD)
- CCC1030: A place to “undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.”

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD: There are ways for those still living to assist the dead in lessening their time in Purgatory:

- CCC1032: *“This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead...[receiving] the Eucharist sacrifice...The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on the behalf of the dead...”*

Zero Biblical Support for This!!!

The Eucharist (Lord’s Supper) and Transubstantiation

For the Catholic Believer Who Does Not Have Unconfessed Grave/Mortal Sins:

- CCC1376: “By the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called *transubstantiation*.”
- CCC1371 *“The Eucharistic sacrifice is also offered for the faithful departed who have died in Christ but are not yet wholly purified, so that they may be able to enter into the light and peace of Christ.”*
- The Eucharist “...the sacrifice of the Mass ‘is identical with the Sacrifice of the Cross’ and is ‘propitiatory...atoning for our sins, and the sins of the living and of the dead in Christ...” *

*Source: John A. O’Brien’s *The Faith of Millions*, which has been endorsed by many archbishops and distributed worldwide)

The Bible is clear that Christ’s sacrifice was once and forever:

- “but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,...For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.” (Hebrews 10:12,14)

When Jesus said in Matthew 26:26-28 “this is my body” and “this is my blood”, He meant it symbolically, as He did when He said, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:48) and “I am the door” (John 10:9)

What is the Catholic Church View of non-Catholic Christians?

May Be Saved: *Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart... may achieve eternal salvation.” CCC847*

They Will Go to Purgatory: *“All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification [code for going to Purgatory].” CCC1030*

Gods, Gurus, and the Good News

November 30, 2025

Miscellaneous

Incense Burning?

- Prayers ascending to the Lord.
- CCC1146: based on... “...spiritual realities through physical signs and symbols. As a social being, man needs signs and symbols to communicate with others, through language, gestures, and actions. The same holds true for his relationship with God.”
- Psalm 141:2 “*May my prayer be counted as incense before You; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.*”
- Revelation 5:8 “*...golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*”
- Revelation 8:3-4 “*...there was given to him much incense...And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God...*”

Is the Catholic Church a Cult?

1. Distort the Bible.
2. Have a false view of the God of the Bible.
3. Deny Christ as God and the Trinity
4. They redefine key terms or principles.
5. Extra-biblical revelation.
6. Often centered around the revelation of one man.
7. Many describe themselves as Christians.
8. Believe salvation is by works.
9. They have the exclusive truth.
10. They act harshly toward those who do not believe as they do.
11. They force isolation on the members from those outside.
12. Fear, guilt, and even persecution.