

Roman Catholicism (IV)

Holy water – “It is interesting to note how often our Church has availed herself of practices which were in common use among pagans... Thus it is true, in a certain sense, that some Catholic rites and ceremonies are a reproduction of those pagan creeds; but they are the taking of what was **best from paganism**, the keeping of symbolical practices which express the religious instinct that is common to all races and times”

Col.2:6-8, 18-21; 3:17

I. Beginning of Apostasy: Change in Church Organization

Clergy-Laity distinction

Rise of episcopate

Beginning of Roman primacy
(supreme authority of pope)

I. Beginning of Apostasy:
Change in Church Organization

II. Councils

Councils or Synods

- Maintained ecclesiastical unity and decided questions of faith and discipline
- Their defense: Ac.15 and Mt.18:19-20

I. Beginning of Apostasy:
Change in Church Organization

II. Councils

III. Changes in Doctrine

Images Worship

To understand denominations,
we must understand history

MDR [strict?]

1. Julius III (d. 1555)
2. Sergius III
3. Pope can do anything he likes
4. Permanent concubinage
5. Choose lesser offences
6. Divorce on ground of mutual consent
7. Jerome: 1 Co.7:1 – Mt.24:19
 - a. 1 Tim.4:1-3
 - b. Mt.19:3-9. Hb.13:4

Fables, false miracles

1. 'St. Ninian' of Scotland
2. 'St. Kentigern' of Glasgow
3. 'St. Columba'
4. Bonifacius
5. Dionysius
6. John of Damascus
7. Thomas Becket
8. Coelestin V
9. St. Bernard

Fables, false miracles

10. Dedication of church in Foigny

What about miracles?

1. Catholics are more consistent than Pentecostals – Mk.16:20; Hb.2:1-4; Ac.2:1-4.
2. BUT how can Catholics refute Pentecostal claims of miracles?
3. Matter of demonstration: Ac.8; 1 Th.1; 2 Co.12.
4. One baptism, Ep.4:5.

Mary

Three fundamental tenets

1. Mary was mother of God
2. Remained perpetual virgin
3. Conceived, born, and lived without sin

Many unsubstantiated claims about Mary

Biblical facts pertaining to Mary

1 Tim.2:5, ONE mediator: One who stands equidistant from two sides

Jesus lived with God in heaven, came to earth, Son of God (Jn.3:17) and Son of man (Mt.9:6).

Only He can qualify for this work.
Hb.7:25; 1 Jn.2:1.

Biblical facts pertaining to Mary

Catholics use John 2 to imply
Mary's intercession with Jesus

- a. 'Woman' (4). Not 'mother'
- b. Mild rebuke, not spiritual exaltation
 - 1) 'What have I to do...' [2 Sm.16:10]
 - 2) 'My hour has not yet come'
 - ▶ Mt.12:46-50
 - ▶ Lk.11:27-28
- c. Jn.14:6, THE way...
- d. Mt.13:55-56... brothers

Saint worship

Graves were more splendidly adorned and more frequently visited than palaces of kings

1. 1205: bishop Nivelon
2. Pope also received worship

“The Pope can do all things whatsoever he pleases, even unlawful things, and is more than God” – Cardinal Zabarelli

- a. Saints = Christians: Ph.1:1; 1 Co.16:1; Ro.1:7
- b. Lk.16, departed saints cannot act on behalf of people on earth