

In the Catholic church, priests are ordained by special selection (no. 1120) and separate from "laity", and saints are defined as those deceased people who by special selection are able to intercede between men and God.

Can the Catholic church be the church Jesus built?

We see that there are a number of differences from the church that Jesus built and the Roman Catholic Church. These differences are not small, but immense.

Some may wonder: does not the Roman Catholic Church claim to trace itself back to the Apostle Peter? Unfortunately, this claim is not historically accurate. The first person to be called "Pope" was Siricius in 384 AD. The first "Pope" to claim the authority of Peter was Leo the Great in 440AD. Peter himself would not be qualified to be a Pope. There are other points to consider, but from these one can conclude that despite modern Catholic teaching, the Catholic church cannot be found in doctrine, name or organization prior to the third century AD, hundreds of years after Jesus established His church.

One can even note that the coming of the Catholic church was prophesied by Paul as "another" church not of Christ. 1 Timothy 4:1-3

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith..... forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth." To this day the Catholic church forbids priests and bishops to marry (Consider that the Bible COMMANDS Bishops to marry, 1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:6), and abstaining from meats on Friday (no longer practiced) and Lent.

Simply put, it is impossible for the Catholic church to be the church that Jesus built.

How can someone join the church that Jesus built?

1. Have Faith in Jesus Christ, by hearing and believing (Romans 10:17)
2. Repent/turn away from sin and sinful behavior (Acts 2:38)
3. Confess Jesus Christ as Lord (Romans 10:9)
4. Be Baptized for the removal of these sins (Acts 22:16)

Understanding the Catholic Church



Point no. 811 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the Catholic church is "*the sole Church of Christ, which in the Creed we profess to be one, holy, catholic and apostolic.*"

Let's see the truth of this statement by comparing the characteristics of the church of Christ (found in the Bible) and the Roman Catholic Church. Logic would say that if they are the same church, these characteristics will be the same. But if they differ on even one point, then they are two different churches. The Bible says God does not change (Malachi 3:6). His church will not change either.

1. The Head: The head of the church that Christ built is Christ. Ephesians 1:22 "*And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church*". Colossians 1:18 "*And He is the head of the body, the church*",

The head of the Catholic church is the Pope. According to the Catechism, no.1594 "*The bishop (Pope) receives the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders, which integrates him into the episcopal college and makes him the visible head of the particular Church entrusted to him*"

2. Doctrine: The doctrine of the church Jesus built is singular: the

Bible. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work*". "*Thoroughly equipped*" means that there is no other source of doctrine. Scripture also states that it has been handed down "*once for all*" Jude 3, and that it "*does not change*" I Peter 1:23

The doctrine of the Catholic Church is multiple: Primarily it is the catechism (no. 11), which is the result of Sacred Scriptures, the Fathers of the Church, the liturgy, and the Church's Magisterium. These doctrines change constantly (consider the doctrine of Limbo, removed 2007).

3. Understanding God's Word: The church that Jesus built teaches that men can understand God's Word to them. Ephesians 3:4 "(the Word) *by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ*" 1 John 5:13 "*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life*". It is commanded that a Christian must study the bible to

show ourselves approved by God (II Timothy 2:15).

The Catholic Church teaches that man cannot understand the Word of God; this doctrine was often repeated in Catholic policy. (No. 119). In fact, the Council of Toulouse (and other church councils) stated in Canon 14 "*We prohibit also that the laity should be permitted to have the books of the Old or New Testament*". It was not until modern times that this ban was lifted; the Bible was not lifted from the Code of Canon Law's list of banned books (no.s 1128, 1223) until 1983!

4. Priests and Saints: In the church that Jesus built all of the members of the church are called priests. Revelation 1:6 "*Jesus has made us (all Christians) to be a kingdom, priests to His God*" I Peter 2:9 "*But you (all Christians) are a chosen race, a royal priesthood*". As well, all Christians are called saints: I Corinthians 1:1 "*To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling*" Ephesians 1:1 "*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus*". Thus, all Christians are saints and priests according to the Bible.