

## A Historical Look at Catholicism's Drift Into Apostasy

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**Departing from the Truth**

Apostates are "men who **turn away from the truth**...[they] profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.  
(Titus 1:14-16)

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# APOSTATE

- Apostasy comes from two Greek words meaning "to stand away from." It occurs when there is a departure from previously known truth.
- Individual apostates, who gain influence and power, will try to lead churches, para-church ministries, denominations and seminaries into apostasy.

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## Satan Attacks Every Christian Doctrine

- The Supremacy of God's Word
- The Sufficiency of God's Son
- The Singularity of God's Gospel
- The Sovereignty of God's Grace
- The Security of God's Children
- The Severity of God's Punishment
- The Sanctity of God's Church

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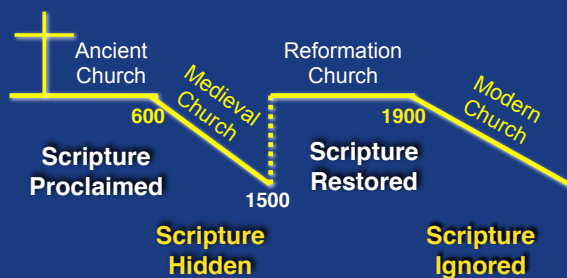
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## The History of the Church



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## Two Streams of Christianity

### Apostolic Church

Made up of born-again Christians with the same faith as the apostles. The gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Mat. 16:18).

### Apostate Church

Made up of those who departed from the faith to follow doctrines of demons. They left the apostolic church because they were never part of it (1 John 2:19; 1 Tim. 4:1).

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## Development of Catholicism

Some 2nd century churches abandoned the plurality of elders in favor of a ruling bishop. **Ignatius** taught that churches without a bishop had no authority to do baptisms or the Lord's Supper.

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## Seeds of Apostasy

- Tertullian (155-255) elevated the authority of the church over Scripture.
- Origen (185-254) taught allegorical methods of interpretation and baptismal regeneration.

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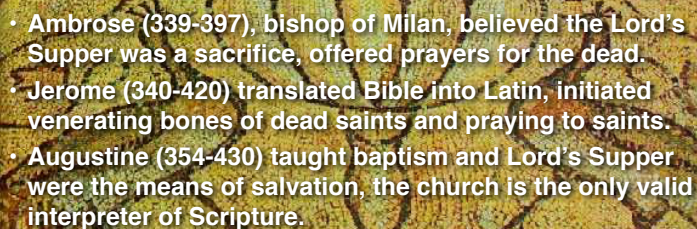
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- Ambrose (339-397), bishop of Milan, believed the Lord's Supper was a sacrifice, offered prayers for the dead.
  - Jerome (340-420) translated Bible into Latin, initiated venerating bones of dead saints and praying to saints.
  - Augustine (354-430) taught baptism and Lord's Supper were the means of salvation, the church is the only valid interpreter of Scripture.

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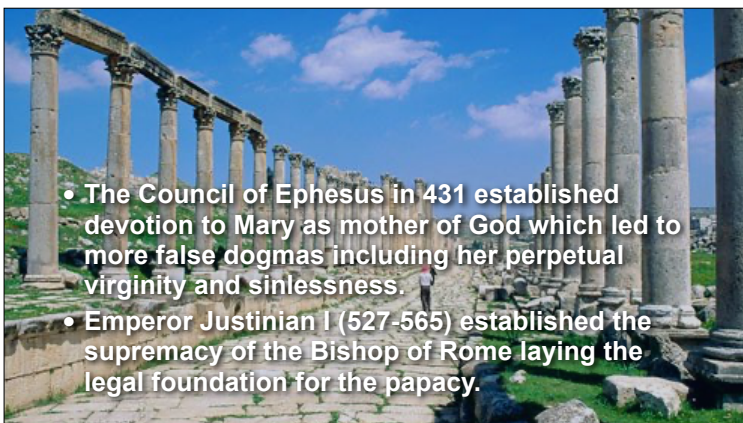
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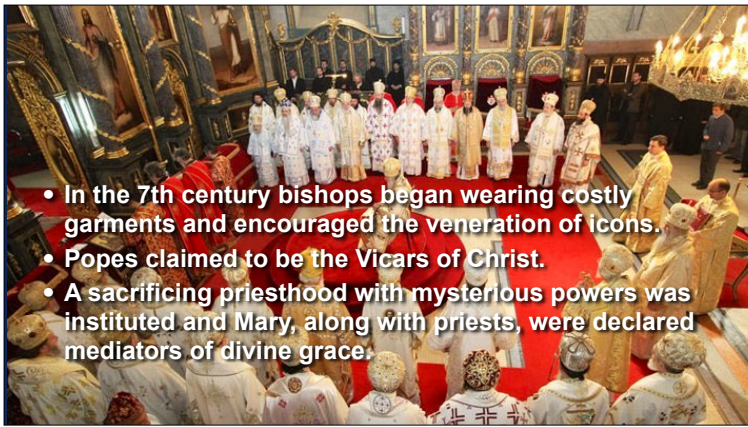
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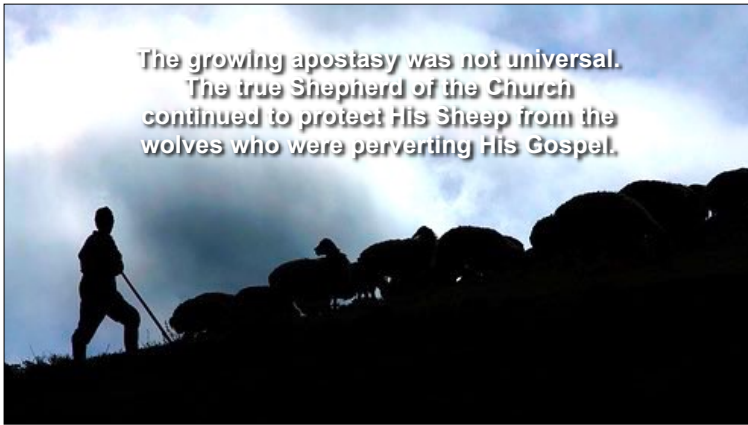
## Paganism Enters the Church

- Roman Emperor Constantine made Christianity the state religion in the 4th century and ruled the church.
- Free from persecution, pagans entered the church as false converts through the ritual of water baptism with no repentance.
- Pagan temples became places of church worship.





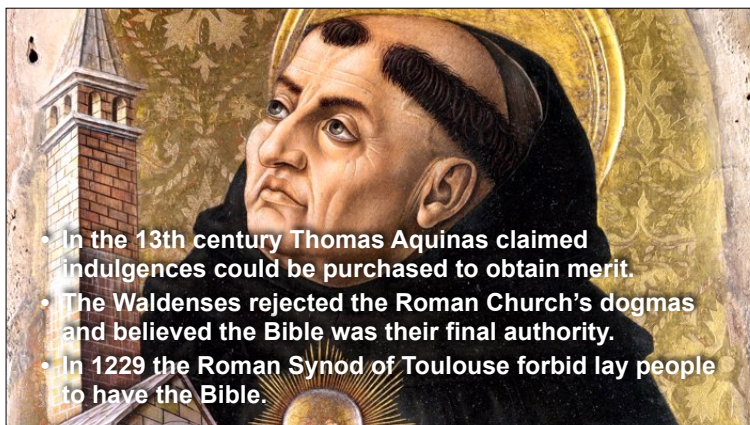
- In the 7th century bishops began wearing costly garments and encouraged the veneration of icons.
- Popes claimed to be the Vicars of Christ.
- A sacrificing priesthood with mysterious powers was instituted and Mary, along with priests, were declared mediators of divine grace.



The growing apostasy was not universal.  
The true Shepherd of the Church  
continued to protect His Sheep from the  
wolves who were perverting His Gospel.



From 867 to 1049 the Roman church  
became infested with wicked, corrupt and  
immoral popes.



## The Sale of Indulgences

In 1516 Pope Leo financed the building of St. Peter's Basilica by selling indulgences for the forgiveness of sin.

## Heresy and Corruption

In God's providence, Martin Luther was sent to the Vatican and was shocked at the immoral corruption of the clergy. He climbed these stairs on his knees, believing each step would take away one year in purgatory. Then he remembered, "The just shall live by faith."

## the Reformation...

On Oct. 31, 1517, the eve of All Saints Day, when Catholics would be venerating their relics, Luther posted ninety-five theses against indulgences on the church door.



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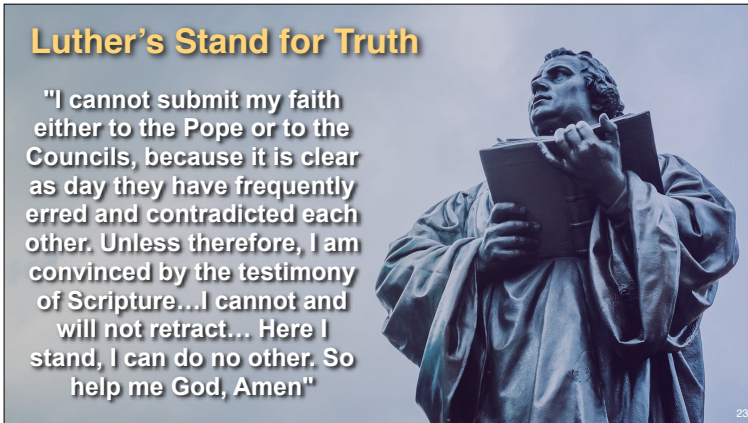
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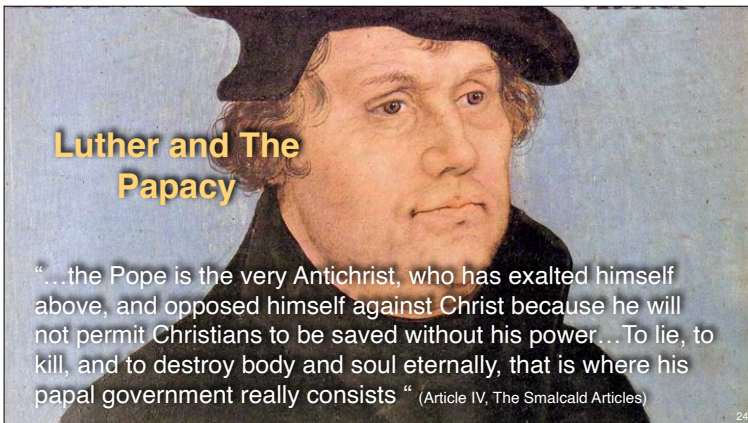
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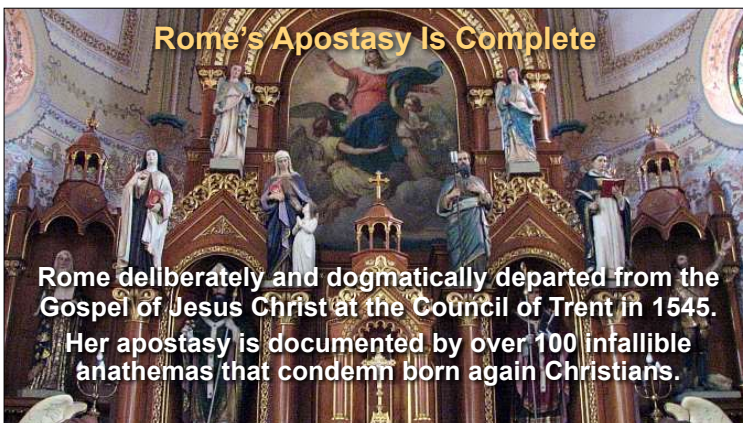
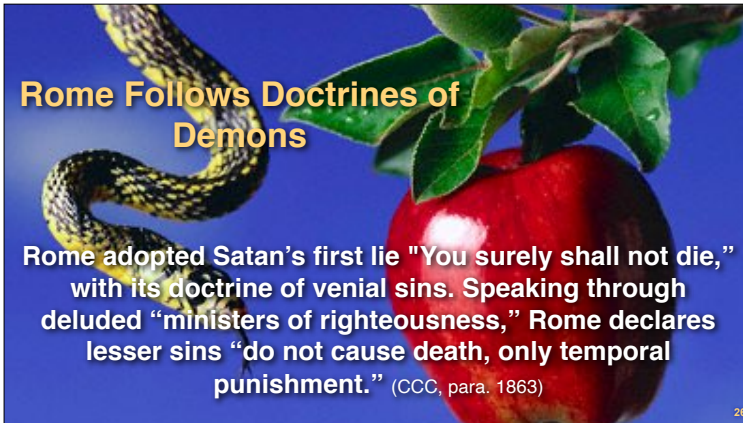
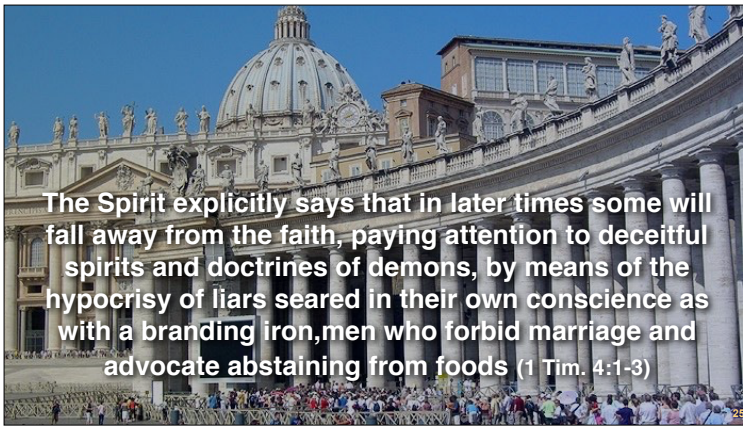
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## The Papacy is the Head of This Apostate Church

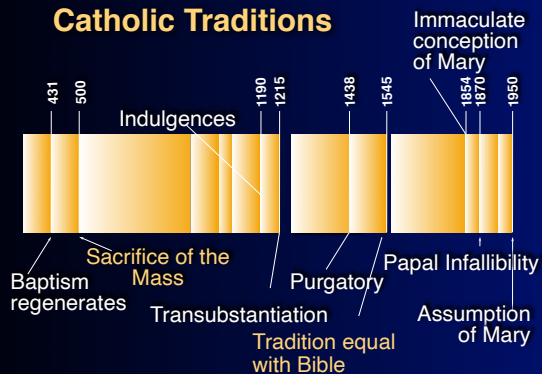
- Steals titles from the Triune God - Holy Father, Head of the Church, Vicar of Christ
- Receives Worship due only to God
- Usurps God's infallibility
- Condemns all who believe God's Gospel
- Robs Christ of His power over souls



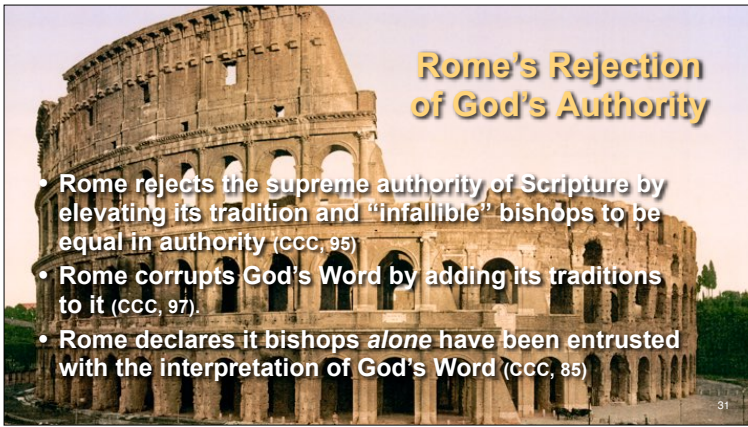
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Roman Catholicism's  
Apostasy Has Resulted in  
Major Departures from  
the Christian Faith

## Catholic Traditions



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## Rome's Rejection of God's Authority

- Rome rejects the supreme authority of Scripture by elevating its tradition and “infallible” bishops to be equal in authority (ccc, 85)
- Rome corrupts God's Word by adding its traditions to it (ccc, 97).
- Rome declares its bishops *alone* have been entrusted with the interpretation of God's Word (ccc, 85)

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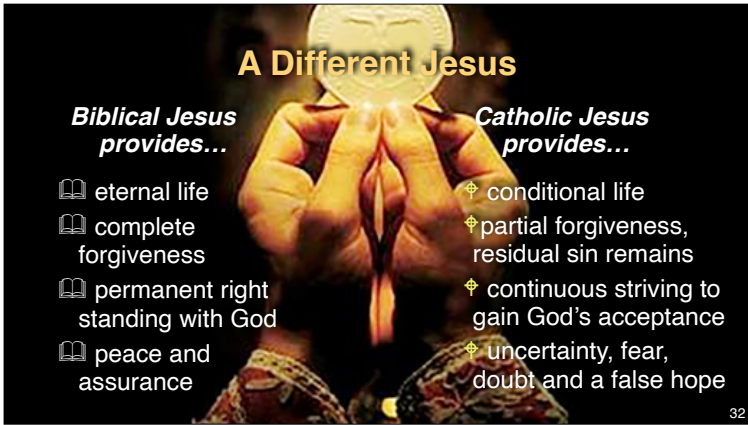
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## A Different Jesus

<b><i>Biblical Jesus provides...</i></b>	<b><i>Catholic Jesus provides...</i></b>
📖 eternal life	✙ conditional life
📖 complete forgiveness	✙ partial forgiveness, residual sin remains
📖 permanent right standing with God	✙ continuous striving to gain God's acceptance
📖 peace and assurance	✙ uncertainty, fear, doubt and a false hope

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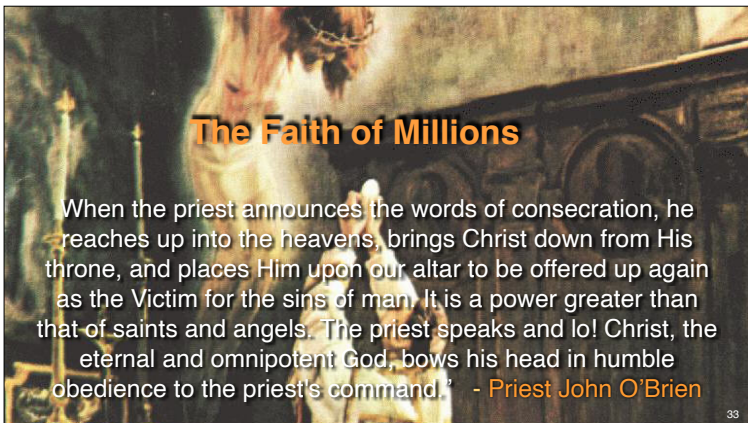
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## The Faith of Millions

When the priest announces the words of consecration, he reaches up into the heavens, brings Christ down from His throne, and places Him upon our altar to be offered up again as the Victim for the sins of man. It is a power greater than that of saints and angels. The priest speaks and lo! Christ, the eternal and omnipotent God, bows his head in humble obedience to the priest's command.” - **Priest John O'Brien**

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## The Sacrifice of the Mass

"The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice." (CCC, 1367)

"If any one says the sacrifice of the mass...is not a propitiatory sacrifice; or, that it ought not to be offered for the living and the dead for sins, pains, and satisfactions; let him be anathema." (Council of Trent)

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### *Sacrifice at Calvary*

- offered by the sinless Son of God on a cross
- one finished sacrifice for all sin
- for the living
- bloody
- unrepeatable

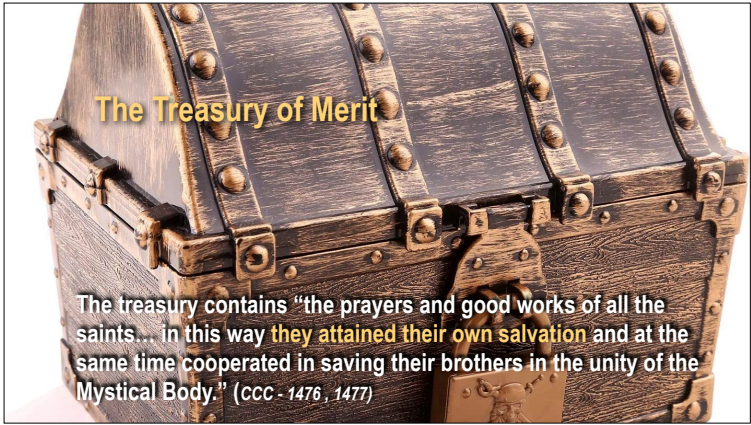
### *Sacrifice of the Mass*

- offered by sinful men on an altar
- daily sacrifices for past sins
- for the living & dead
- bloodless
- repeatable

## The Perversion of the God's Grace

Rome declares Grace is initiated by water baptism, lost by mortal sin, merited by good works, obtained through indulgences, distributed through Mary, received through the sacraments and withheld from those excommunicated.

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### The Treasury of Merit

The treasury contains “the prayers and good works of all the saints... in this way **they attained their own salvation** and at the same time cooperated in saving their brothers in the unity of the Mystical Body.” (ccc - 1476 , 1477)

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### Indulgences – Removal of Temporal Punishment for Sin

The RCC “commands that the usage of indulgences, most beneficial to Christians, should be kept in the Church; and it condemns with anathema those who say indulgences are useless or the church does not have the power to grant them.”  
Vatican Council II



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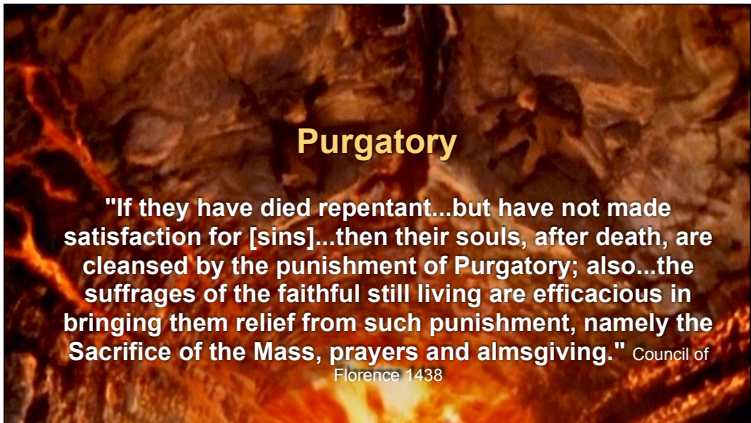
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### Purgatory

"If they have died repentant...but have not made satisfaction for [sins]...then their souls, after death, are cleansed by the punishment of Purgatory; also...the suffrages of the faithful still living are efficacious in bringing them relief from such punishment, namely the Sacrifice of the Mass, prayers and almsgiving." Council of Florence 1438

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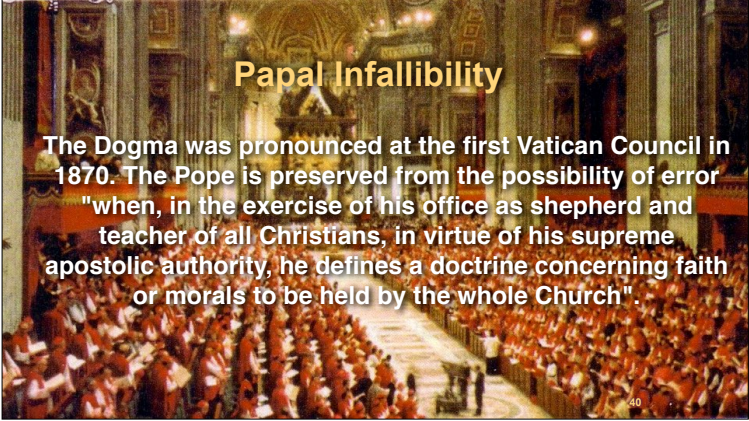
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## Papal Infallibility

The Dogma was pronounced at the first Vatican Council in 1870. The Pope is preserved from the possibility of error "when, in the exercise of his office as shepherd and teacher of all Christians, in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole Church".



## Mary Quite Contrary

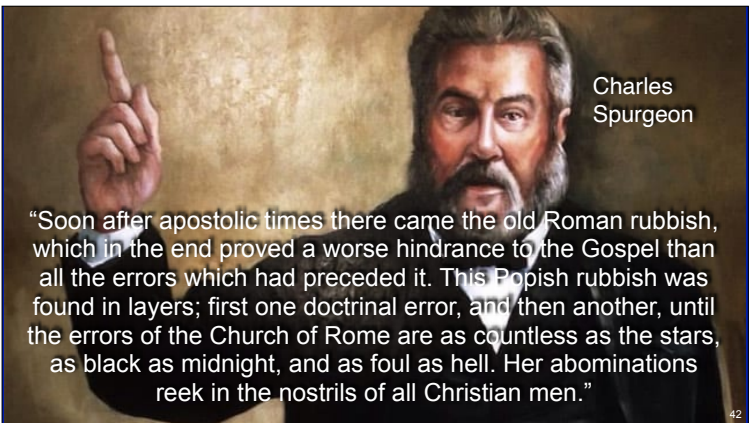
The **Immaculate Conception** of Mary became dogma in 1854 declaring she was conceived without original sin.

In 1950 Mary's bodily **Assumption** into heaven became dogma.



Charles Spurgeon

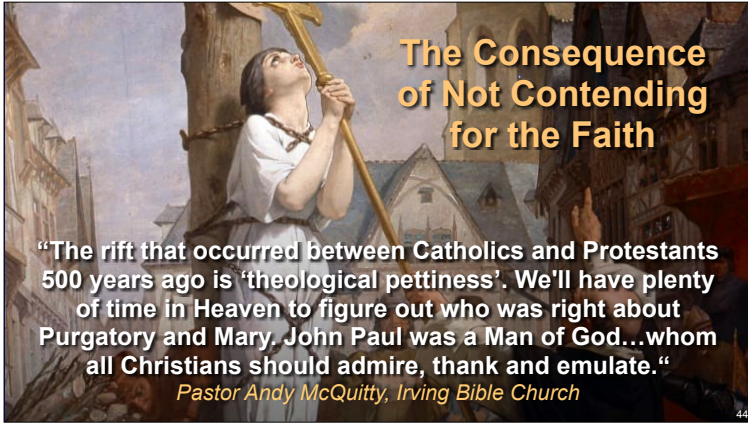
"Soon after apostolic times there came the old Roman rubbish, which in the end proved a worse hindrance to the Gospel than all the errors which had preceded it. This Popish rubbish was found in layers; first one doctrinal error, and then another, until the errors of the Church of Rome are as countless as the stars, as black as midnight, and as foul as hell. Her abominations reek in the nostrils of all Christian men."





## Rome's Strategy for Unity

- Proclaim all roads lead to Rome and urge "separated brethren" to come home for the *fullness* of salvation.
- Beguile and confuse people with Catholic mystics and contemplative spirituality.
- Seduce evangelicals to promote Catholicism as a valid expression of Christianity.

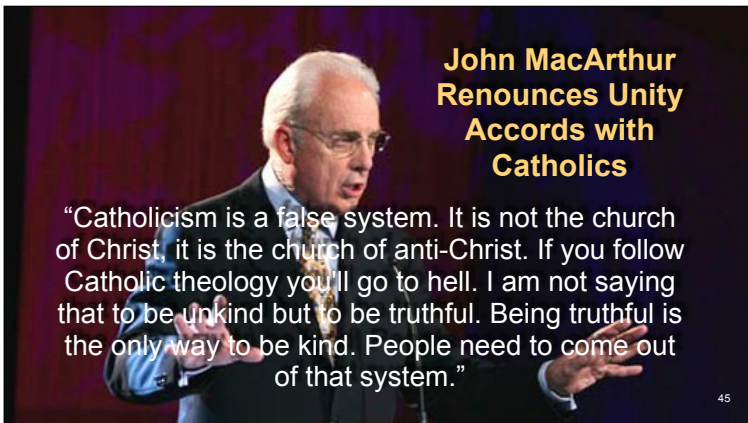


## The Consequence of Not Contending for the Faith

"The rift that occurred between Catholics and Protestants 500 years ago is 'theological pettiness'. We'll have plenty of time in Heaven to figure out who was right about Purgatory and Mary. John Paul was a Man of God...whom all Christians should admire, thank and emulate."

*Pastor Andy McQuitty, Irving Bible Church*

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## John MacArthur Renounces Unity Accords with Catholics

"Catholicism is a false system. It is not the church of Christ, it is the church of anti-Christ. If you follow Catholic theology you'll go to hell. I am not saying that to be unkind but to be truthful. Being truthful is the only way to be kind. People need to come out of that system."

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## The Christian's Responsibility

- God's Holy Word gives constant warnings to the church to be on guard against doctrinal defection which leads to apostasy.
- Christians must stand firm on the truth of God's Word and be sober and alert lest we be swept away by the growing wave of apostasy in the last days.

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## What is at Stake if We Don't Contend for the Faith?

- The glory, honor and name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The sanctity of His Church.
- The purity of His Gospel
- The eternal destiny of those who are being deceived

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