



# Proclaiming the Gospel

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." - [Romans 1:16](#)

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[Editor - Evangelist Mike Gendron](#)

*Jesus said,  
"He who is of God  
hears God's  
words...if anyone  
keeps My word  
he shall never  
see death."  
([John 8:47,51](#))*

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## "I Know A Roman Catholic Who Is Saved"

Occasionally, we hear from well-meaning Christians who tell us they know a Roman Catholic who is saved. While there may be born-again Christians who worship in the Catholic Church, they should no longer be identified as Roman Catholics. Catholics are those who believe Rome's gospel of works and sacraments and according to the Apostle Paul, they have "believed in vain" ([1 Cor. 15:2](#)). They remain dead in their sins along with the many other "professing" Christians who have believed another gospel. Conversely, Christians are those who believe the Gospel of Jesus and have been saved from the power and punishment of sin ([Rom. 1:16](#)).

For Catholics to believe God's Gospel of grace, they must repent (have a change of mind) concerning the Catholic gospel of works. It is impossible to believe both gospels at the same time because the two gospels are diametrically opposed to one another. Accordingly, we should be defined by which gospel we believe, irrespective of which church we attend. However, those in the Catholic Church, who have experienced the second birth, must be exhorted to leave their apostate church. For what communion has light with darkness? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God [Christians] with idols? ([2 Cor. 6:14-18](#)).

So when someone tells us they know a Catholic who is a born-again Christian, we have to ask, how do you know? Since no one can see a person's heart, it is impossible to know with absolute certainty "who" is a Christian. However we can know with certainty "what" is a Christian. From the Bible

we know a Christian is one who has been called by God according to His purpose and grace to believe on the One He sent ([John 6:29](#); [2 Tim. 1:9](#)). A Christian knows God's word is true through the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit ([1 Cor. 2:12](#)). He has the ability to discern truth from error and has a teachable spirit ([1 John 4:6](#)). A Christian is one who has received eternal life, the complete forgiveness of sins and a right standing before God by forsaking all efforts to save himself and by transferring his trust to the Lord Jesus Christ ([Eph. 2:8-9](#), [Col. 2:13](#)). By abiding in God's word, the Christian is liberated from man's traditions and legalistic bondage ([John 8:31-32](#)). A Christian is one who is motivated to obey God's commands by His love for God, *not* to merit salvation ([1 John 5:13](#)). He endeavors to live according to God's will, to do the things pleasing to God and to avoid the things that God hates ([Titus 2:11-14](#)).

A true understanding of the Gospel is necessary to trust God's only provision for the salvation of sinners. Often, the truth must be contrasted against the errors of religious indoctrination for the Gospel to be clearly understood. Biblical terms must be shared and defined in order to expose man's traditions which oppose the Gospel. Only by asking questions can we know if a Roman Catholic has a true understanding of the glorious Gospel of grace? Following are some key questions to ask professing Christians.

### Questions About Conversion

Do you know that you must be born again to see the Kingdom of God? When and how were you born again? What were the events that led to your conversion? Catholics tend

[\(see Saved on page 2\)](#)

([Saved from page 1](#))

to interpret their conversion in light of their indoctrination. They usually point to water baptism as the event that triggered their conversion. Many Catholics are reluctant to talk about spiritual things. This is usually an indication there has been no conversion. Anyone who has experienced the second birth will want to sing the praises of the One who called them out of darkness into His glorious light (1 Pet. 2:9). Giving details of how God gloriously converts a sinner brings great joy to other Christians ([Acts 15:3](#)).

What were you converted from and to? Were you converted from a *religion* to a relationship with God? Has God converted you from being a slave to sin to become His adopted son and heir? A Christian will be able to say what John Newton said, "I am not [yet] what I ought to be, but I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am."

### Questions About Faith

Is faith necessary to be saved? If it is, how do you explain the Catholic teaching that infants are saved, not by faith, but by water baptism? Has the object of your faith ever changed? On what do you base your salvation? Is the Lord Jesus Christ the object of your faith and obedience, or do you still trust and submit to the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church? Is it possible to believe two opposing doctrines at the same time? Do you believe there is only one Gospel of salvation? What is the Gospel? How can you discern which Gospel has the power to save sinners and which gospel condemns those who preach it? ([Gal. 1:6-9](#)). What authority do you use to discern truth from error? Are you relying on what Christ has done (grace) or what you are doing (works) for your salvation? In whose righteousness are you trusting for entrance into heaven?

### Questions About Sin and Salvation

If you were to leave the Catholic Church would you still be saved? Do you know that God's righteous justice demands death as punishment for even the smallest of sins? ([Rom. 6:23](#)). Did you know that even if you keep the whole law and yet stumble at just one point, you are guilty of breaking the whole law? ([James 2:10](#)). Have you been completely forgiven from the guilt and punishment of all your sins, past and future, mortal

and venial? ([Col. 2:13-14](#)). Or do you still believe purgatory is necessary to purge away the sins that were not purified by the blood of Jesus? What about indulgences? Do you believe they are necessary for the remission of temporal punishment for sin? Catholics are taught that they can make satisfaction for their sins by doing penance and gaining indulgences. Any sins remaining can be expiated in purgatory (CCC, [1459](#), [1471](#)).

### Questions About Jesus

Do you believe Jesus bore your sins and was condemned in your place to bring you to God? Do you believe He canceled your infinite sin debt and removed the entire curse of the law? What do you believe about the Mass? Why do Catholic priests offer sacrifices for sins *after* Jesus offered Himself once

for all sin for all time? ([Hebrews 10:12](#)). Can you show me in the New Testament

where the early church followed this practice? Why does the Catholic Church continue the one-time event that Jesus said "is finished"? ([John 19:31](#)). The Bible teaches that the one offering of Jesus Christ has made perfect forever those who are sanctified ([Heb. 10:14](#)). The offering was sufficient and is never to be offered again ([Heb. 10:18](#)).

These questions will not only determine if a Catholic has truly been converted to Christ, they will also help a new convert grow in grace and truth. The questions can also be used as a scalpel to cut away the traditions of men that often hinder a believer's spiritual growth. Please note that all these questions are focused on the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did to reconcile condemned sinners to God. Avoid asking questions unrelated to the core issue, "What must I do to be saved?"

It is not love when we fail to tell the truth to those who are marching proudly towards hell's gate. We do people a grave disservice if we encourage them to continue in a spurious or fraudulent faith. If their faith is not in Christ alone, they remain separated from God and under His wrath. If we do not risk offending them about their true spiritual condition, they risk the irreversible tragedy of being condemned by Jesus at the Great White Throne judgment. Which would be the greater offense? I cannot think of anything more horrifying than a "professing" Christian, coming face to face with Jesus,

([See Saved on page 8](#))

## The Ministry of Proclaiming The Gospel

### OUR PURPOSE

The ministry was established in 1991 and is incorporated in the State of Texas as a non-profit [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) corporation for the purposes of: 1) glorifying and serving Jesus Christ by proclaiming the Gospel of man's redemption; 2) establishing outreach and discipleship groups in evangelical churches for Roman Catholics to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ; 3) exposing any doctrines that oppose the Gospel so people will repent and come to a knowledge of truth.

### OUR METHOD

In a spirit of love and humility, we teach evangelistic seminars, workshops and home Bible studies to train and encourage other Christians to be effective witnesses to Roman Catholics. We also offer resources designed to teach, equip and encourage others to labor in this huge mission field.

### OUR NEWSLETTER

Proclaiming the Gospel's bi-monthly newsletter is designed to extend the purposes of the ministry throughout the world. The editor is [Evangelist Mike Gendron](#), a graduate of [Dallas Theological Seminary](#) and a former Roman Catholic of over 34 years.

### OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, satisfied the righteous justice of God by paying the complete penalty for sin when He died as man's substitute on Calvary's cross. Any person who repents and receives Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior by grace through faith in His life, death and resurrection, ceasing to trust in anything else for salvation, becomes a child of God and receives the gift of eternal life, which can never be revoked.

### OUR PROVISION

Everything we do is made possible through the prayers and financial support of those who share our burden for the lost. We recognize the sacrifices God's people make to sustain our work and pledge to use these resources effectively and efficiently. Donations (except for products) are tax deductible.

### OUR BOARD OF REFERENCE

[Kerby Anderson](#), President, [Probe Ministries](#); Dr. J. Ronald Blue, President, [CAM Int'l](#); John J. Dwyer, DFW Heritage; [John Maisel](#), Director, [East-West Int'l Ministries](#); [Chuck Missler](#), Founder, [Koinonia House](#); Pastor Tom Nelson, [Denton Bible Church](#); [Dr. David Reagan](#), Director, [Lamb & Lion Ministry](#).

## Rome's Condemnation of Former Catholics

As a guest on a recent radio program in Omaha, Nebraska, I was asked if the 100 anathemas pronounced by the Councils of Trent and Vatican II are still in effect today. Many priests will say they have been rescinded because of the current movement to bring "separated brethren" back home to Rome. However, either they do not know their church's teachings on anathemas or this is just another deliberate attempt to deceive the unsuspecting.

In order to ascertain the Vatican's official position on anathemas I researched [The Catholic Encyclopedia](#) which gives full and authoritative information on Catholic doctrine. I found the differences between canons, dogmas and decrees. Canons are irreversible "short, dogmatic definitions with an anathema attached to them." Decrees are disciplinary regulations that can be changed and have no anathemas attached. Infallible dogmas are "the last word of supreme teaching authority; there must be no possibility of reopening the question in a spirit of doubt; [the dogma] must settle the matter forever." How do we know an infallible dogma? Whenever "an anathema is attached to doctrinal teaching of a general council, it is a certain sign of an infallible definition." Dogmas "will be for all time immutable truths" because they "have been defined and delivered to us by the Church" with "an infallible testimony." When a teaching doctrine is elevated to a dogma, Catholics "are bound to believe them in order to maintain the bond of faith."

When the pontiff pronounces an anathema, he uses a formula ending with these words: "Wherefore in the name of God...in virtue of the power given us of binding and loosing... we deprive (Name) of the Communion of the Body and Blood of Our Lord, we separate him from the society of all Christians, we exclude him from the bosom of our Holy Mother the Church in Heaven and on earth, we declare him excommunicated and anathematized and we judge him condemned to eternal fire with Satan and his angels and all the reprobate, so long as he will...do penance and satisfy the Church; we deliver him to Satan to mortify his body, that his soul may be saved on the day of judgment." Christians need not to worry! If God is for us, who is against us? Who is the one who condemns or who brings a charge against

God's elect? ([Rom. 8:31-34](#))

Here is a summary of Rome's anathemas. They are immutable, which means they can never be rescinded. They condemn former Catholics to the torments of everlasting hell unless they do penance and return home to Rome. They also condemn current Catholics who do not believe every dogma.

All former Catholics, who have been justified by God through faith in the finished work of Christ, must use this information to educate others. We must contend for the faith by informing our pastors and church leaders who are encouraging unity with apostate Rome. We must proclaim the truth to Catholics who ignore the anathemas imposed upon them. Why would Catholics trust their church's teachings on salvation when they ignore their teachings on condemnation? God's word is our most trustworthy source for knowing the truth on these critical issues!

### Quick Quotes

*"The reason God created us was to earn heaven, so we could be with him, and my goal is to help more people get to heaven."*  
Tom Monaghan, founder of Domino's Pizza, who recently committed \$200 million to the founding of a new Roman Catholic university, to be named Ave Maria University.

*"Evangelicals and Catholics do not share a common understanding of how the work of Christ accomplishes our salvation."*  
Dr. Al Mohler, Pres. Southern Baptist Sem.

### Where Mike Is Speaking

March 13 Cottonwood Creek Baptist  
Allen, TX (972) 359-7777  
March 21-23 First Baptist of Beech Grove  
Indianapolis, IN (317) 784-1478  
April 11-13 Preston City Bible Church  
Gales Ferry, CT (860) 447-1791  
May 2-3 The Forbidden Book Symposium  
Goodyear, AZ (623) 536-8614  
May 23-25 Calvary Chapel  
Kennewick, WA (509) 586-8902

**To schedule Mike Gendron to speak at your church or event, contact him at:**  
phone: (972) 495-0485  
[e-mail: ptg@pro-gospel.org](mailto:ptg@pro-gospel.org)

## "Equipping The Saints" Evangelism Cruise

Every Christian has the great privilege of being an Ambassador for the King of Kings! Are you equipped to take His message of hope to the people He has placed in your circle of influence? Do you need some encouragement and training to become more effective and faithful? If so, join Mike and Jane Gendron on a 7-day cruise on Royal Caribbean's *Rhapsody of the Seas*. Learn easy and effective ways to turn day-to-day conversations toward spiritual discussions. Learn how to overcome apathy, procrastination, fear and objections. Learn how to communicate the Gospel with clarity, power and conviction. Learn how to be successful every time you deliver the greatest news ever told about the greatest gift ever given! Mike will offer four PowerPoint presentations in the ship's theater.

The *Equipping the Saints* Cruise sponsored by *Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry* will depart from Galveston, Texas, Aug. 31 and sail to Key West, Georgetown, Grand Cayman and Cozumel before returning on Sept. 7. You will enjoy a special week of activities combining biblical training, Christ-centered witnessing, like-minded fellowship, sight-seeing, fine cuisine, fun and relaxation.

Prices start as low as \$589 per person. A deposit of \$250 will reserve your cabin for this exciting adventure. Final payment is not due until July 1. To make reservations or for more information, call Cruise Director, Rene Pearlman at 1-800-388-1983.

## Reaching Catholics for Christ Radio Outreach

The radio program [According to God's Word](#) continues to grow in its outreach to Roman Catholics throughout America. The program features T. A. McMahon of [The Berean Call](#), and weekly guests James McCarthy of [Good News for Catholics](#), Greg Durel of [Catholic Outreach of Louisiana](#) and Mike Gendron of [Proclaiming the Gospel](#). Over the past few months, each guest on the 30 minute program has been giving a commentary on Paul's letter to the Galatians from a Roman Catholic perspective. You can listen to each broadcast on the *Reaching Catholics* web site: [www.reachingcatholics.org/radio.html](http://www.reachingcatholics.org/radio.html)

# Seeking His Truth

## Letters to the Editor



I am so glad you have a heart to see people come to the truth and are unwilling to compromise the gospel of Jesus Christ. In this ecumenical climate we all live in today, it is refreshing to hear a voice that loves Jesus and Roman Catholics enough to speak the truth in love. I find it so disappointing that so many of my fellow pastors in our community have bought into the lie that the RCC gospel is perfectly acceptable, and that they are Christians. I am seen as a narrow minded individual by many, but we must contend for the faith that was once handed down to the saints. The radio show that I will have you on has soared in ratings, because it is a secular station and we don't have to worry about all the "political ecumenical correctness" like they do on "Christian" radio, where Catholicism is promoted as a legitimate Christian faith. This secular station I am on is a wide open door to get the Gospel out to people who don't go to church, but listen intently to the show. Thank you so much for your willingness to help get the truth out.

T.B., Prattville, AL

Can you help me? I am 85 years old and want to see my Catholic brothers and sisters turn to God. I heard your tape on how you were saved and after 83 years of being a Catholic, I was born again and gave my life to God. Now I want to see my family saved. I want them to feel what I feel, so blessed and wanting to learn more.

Y.H., Leominster, MA

Thank you for the nice evening you spent with me discussing the Lord. Since then, I have been overjoyed with my new found faith in Christ. I am thirsty for more knowledge of Him and His will for me as a young Christian man. I know you are very busy with your ministry, but it would mean a great deal to me if you could set aside some time for a phone conversation or two with me. I am open to your guidance and leadership, but mostly on my mind is how to become one who lives the Word. Thank you so much for your role in helping me. You may never know how influential you have been

in my life and salvation. I only hope that as my life improves that I can help support your ministry financially. It would be a joy!

M.H., Plano, TX

I struggle each time I get a hold of one of your messages. Don't you think you would do better by working to convert others to Christianity rather than condemning Catholics who are already Christian?

K.M., Tyler, TX

*Both Christians and Roman Catholics believe that God saves sinners. However, the two faiths hold to vast differences on "how" God saves. "How" God saves sinners is the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. Sinners are saved only by the grace and mercy of God, made possible by the finished sacrifice of His Son, who paid completely the penalty for sin. There is only one Gospel, those who teach another gospel are condemned by the Word of God - not by me (Gal. 1:6-9). Those who believe another gospel have believed in vain (1 Cor. 15:2). Since God saves only by grace, anyone who adds merit to God's grace has nullified the only way of salvation (Rom. 11:6).*

If Jesus was not speaking literally when He said, "you must eat my flesh and drink my blood," then why did he allow so many to leave him? He did not say, "Stop! I was only speaking in metaphor." If, as you say, Jesus was not speaking literally, then thousands of people stopped following Him over a misunderstanding or wrong interpretation. If you read the Catechism of the Catholic Church, you will find it to be like armor with no chinks in it. This is possible because it comes from God. Your separated brother,  
James W., Internet

*Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus uses metaphors of the earthly realm to impart heavenly truth. In chapter three, Jesus said you must be born again. Nicodemus, a master teacher of Israel, showed how religion can blind people from believing spiritual truth. Jesus said to him, "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how shall*

*you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" In chapter four, Jesus used the woman's need for water to sustain physical life as an object lesson to address her more important need for living water to prepare her for eternal life. She also misunderstood Jesus because she could only see her physical need. In chapter six, Jesus contrasts the temporal, physical bread (manna) given by God to the Israelites in the wilderness with the true bread (Himself) which provides spiritual and eternal life to those who believe Him. Again the unbelievers did not understand because they were looking for another free lunch instead of spiritual nourishment Jesus was offering. In each of these events Jesus spoke of something physical or earthly in order to communicate a heavenly or spiritual truth. It was spiritual birth in chapter 3, the Holy Spirit as the living water in chapter 4, and Jesus as the living bread for eternal life in chapter 6. According to Jesus, eating and drinking correspond to coming to Him in faith: "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). The reason many departed from Jesus was unbelief. They did not believe He came from heaven or that He was necessary for eternal life. Those that remained believed He had the words (not the flesh) of eternal life (John 6:68).*

Thank you for taking the time to judge me and the state of my soul. Your ministry is 100% off base. I saw your entire presentation on tape, so I know the half truths and lies you spout. I feel sorry that you feel the need to persecute your fellow Christians. Are you saying that until Protestants came around everyone went to hell? I cannot express how wrong, mean-spirited and hurtful the nonsense is that you are feeding people. I believe in Christianity as expressed in its original form of Roman Catholicism. Yet you feel I am following a false faith. I pray that we Christians could all be one but sadly divisions that you insist upon make that impossible. I am thankful for the inter-faith work of Pope John Paul II and maybe one day fewer denominations of Christianity will exist. I pray God will take the blinders off so you can see that much holiness and good exists in the Church.

J.C., Simi Valley, CA

*It is not I who judges your soul but the Word of God (John 12:48). Until you conform your faith to the faith of the apostles you*

remain under God's judgment. There has always been a remnant of true believers since Christ founded His church. Two streams of Christianity have been operating side by side since the first century - the apostolic church - composed of all born-again Christians who have believed the Gospel, and the apostate church - composed of professing Christians who follow another gospel and never experienced the 2nd birth. As long as there are opposing gospels, there will always be division.

I don't agree with your narrow minded, fundamentalist, sola scriptura, sola fide, man-made, evangelical protestant Christianity.  
J.R., St, Joseph's Communications

Your article on assurance was awesome. I delivered a seven part series on the subject about fifteen years ago. Your presentation, however, presents a number of additional and interesting points that I had not considered. I intend to present your message to our congregation beginning a few weeks from now, as sort of a way of introducing you to them before you come.  
K.T., Port Neches, TX

Question about your article on Assurance. You state that "people in hell will live forever." I have at times struggled with the concept of "eternal" punishment of the lost and quite frankly don't understand how someone could be "eternally" destroyed ([2 Thes. 1:9](#)). The word "destruction" denotes a finality which should bring about the end of punishment. Could you please shed some light on this for me?  
C.C., Oak Creek, WI

*The Greek word for destruction "olethros," which occurs four times in the NT, does not refer to the soul. The soul is immortal as indicated by several passages in Scripture: "many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt ([Dan. 12:2](#)). Jesus said the wicked "will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." ([Mat. 25:46](#)). The word eternal is used to describe both the destiny of the righteous as well as the wicked. Those who reject the Gospel "will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb and the smoke of their torment*

*goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night" ([Rev. 14:10-11](#)). Needless to say, this horrifying description of the destiny that awaits unbelievers should give us all an urgency to share the Gospel with everyone we know.*

Thank you for your stand against the RCC and for showing us how to gently, lovingly and truthfully love our family and friends into His kingdom. We appreciate you so much. We are blessing others with your book *Preparing Catholics for Eternity*.  
D. & K. B., Albuquerque, NM

May God increase your ministry one hundred fold and protect you from the lies of those who love the false Jesus of Rome. It is very hard to believe that folks are so blinded by religion. Jesus did not come to give us a new religion, He came to raise the dead, which we all are until we receive God's forgiveness and His living Spirit. Again, thank you for standing in, on and under the word by which we are transformed.  
K.W., Lexington, KY

I am so very thankful for all the truth I read in your letters, as well as the boldness and grace to proclaim it. My husband is an ex-catholic who is constantly trying to witness to his unsaved relatives and anyone else he meets. All of our 6 children are being instructed about the differences between Catholicism and biblical Christianity. Thanks so much for your much needed ministry. I pray that it grows and you can reach more Catholics (like my sister) and any mixed up evangelicals whom you meet along the way. I have cried, fasted and prayed many times for unsaved Catholic friends and relatives.  
C.E. Beaver creek, OH

This is probably the most intellectually dead website I have ever seen. You have stated your case in blatantly false terms. Christ founded one Church. Any Church owing its foundation to another man is not His work. Every Protestant Church dates its existence from the sixteenth century upheaval against God-ordained authority starting with Martin Luther. Heretical movements, which existed in various periods of Church history, were crushed by heavy handed Roman persecution. Your man-made kingdom, set up to rebel against the City on the Hill, will perish. Your foundational doctrines of *Sola Fide* and *Sola Scriptura* are blatantly contradicted by Scripture. Perhaps you suppose that Scripture came down from heaven

"shrink wrapped" from some Protestant publishing company. You expect us to believe that Christ founded a Church upon a book, which has neither voice nor lungs to provide air to speak and teach. It remains a book without a teacher until you admit the Church is the guidance promised by Christ, the pillar and foundation of the truth. I thank God that I am a Catholic and part of the Church where Jesus still dwells in the tabernacle day and night. It is not filled with the spirit of confusion, uncertainty and human tradition. It speaks with His voice and with His power throughout the centuries. May God guide you out of error and if you do not repent, may God damn you.

J. L., Benton, TN

*The only God-ordained authority on this earth is the Word of God illuminated by the Spirit of God, who is the only teacher we need ([1 John 2:26-27](#)). The church that is the pillar and foundation of truth is the universal church whose members have been sanctified by the truth. You must know and believe Scriptural truth to be a pillar of truth. God has guided me out of error!*

If you are Searching for the truth then be opened minded and listen to some former Protestants who are now Catholic Apologists like Dr. Scott Hahn and Tim Staples. Don't be afraid to face their very compelling conversion testimonies. Remember, you are doomed to hell if you don't repent and go back to the Eucharist.

Al, Internet

*Your alleged condemnation of me must be from the [Book of 2nd Opinion](#) for it cannot be found in the Bible. Hahn told me he converted to Catholicism after praying the rosary which produced a "miracle" in his life. I was converted to Christ after hearing and believing the objective truth of His word. Only Jesus can save sinners from hell. The Apostate Church of Rome does not have that power; however, it continues to shut off the kingdom of heaven to those desiring to enter. The Bible warns us over and over again to never put our trust in men.*

Please submit questions or comments to:

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## **Nuns Victims of Abuse**

Already shaken by a yearlong sex abuse scandal involving priests and minors, the Roman Catholic Church has yet to face another critical challenge - how to help thousands of nuns who say they have been sexually victimized. A national survey estimates that a "minimum" of 34,000 Catholic nuns, or about 40 percent of all nuns in the United States, have suffered some form of sexual trauma. Some of that sexual abuse, exploitation or harassment has come at the hands of priests and other nuns in the church, the report said. Of the more than 1,100 surveys returned to the university, several included brief, personal stories from women who said they had been targeted. One woman wrote that after a priest fondled one of her breasts during confession, she remained so upset that she did not return to confession for the next 18 years. Another wrote that as a young girl, her uncle, who also was a priest, insisted on touching holy oil to her genital area "to keep me safe while dating." Later, her superiors forced her to attend religious retreats with the same uncle, she said. Still another wrote that a priest-therapist treating her for severe depression encouraged her to become involved in "sexual experimentation." The woman said she later began a relationship with another nun. Christopher Dixon, who left the priesthood in 1996 and now lives in St. Louis, said he hopes that the publicity over the survey will generate the same "groundswell" of action that resulted from recent reports of priests' sexual abuse of minors. Bishop Anthony J. O'Connell of Palm Beach, Fla., resigned in March after admitting he sexually abused Dixon more than 25 years earlier. The national study was paid for, in part, by several orders of Catholic nuns. Among them was the St. Louis-based Franciscan Sisters of Mary, with 165 current

members, most in Missouri. Few nuns have come forth publicly to talk about their experiences because many may feel shame or guilt and recognize they could have a lot to lose if they come forward. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 01/05/03)

## **United Christian Europe?**

Pope John Paul II is lobbying European governments to officially recognize the European Union's Christian roots. Vatican diplomats, and the pope himself in meetings with European officials, want to see a strong reference to Christianity included in the preamble to the European Union's Constitution, now being drafted by the Convention on the Future of Europe. Putting an emphasis on Christian values now could alienate the large immigrant populations of Muslims that now reside in virtually every member country. France's tradition of secularism goes back to the French Revolution. Pope John Paul has often expressed concern at the decline of religion in Europe. "The Vatican must now look on Europe as missionary territory," the official said. "They need to conquer lost ground." (UPI, 1/23/03)

## **Bishop Refuses to Resign**

The Catholic Church is very hierarchical, and Catholics tend to be supremely deferential to their pope, bishops and priests. So far prominent Catholic laymen to visit Dallas Bishop Charles Grahmann in 1997 to demand his resignation was not just a big deal. It was huge, and possibly unprecedented in the annals of the American Catholic church. Bishop Grahmann acceded to the laymen's demand five years ago. He agreed, according to several of those who participated in the behind-the-scenes meetings, that he would resign after a few months, the delay being designed to distance the resignation from a jury's conclusion earlier that year that

the Catholic Diocese of Dallas had concealed the sexual predations of the Rev. Rudy Kos. But months went by, and Bishop Grahmann did not resign. Today, he clings to his leadership of the 800,000-member diocese. He insists that he will remain until he reaches mandatory retirement age in 2006. In Texas, one's word is considered one's ineluctable bond. Bishop Grahmann should resign and thereby save his reputation from further staining and his long-suffering flock from more scandal. If he refuses, the Vatican, which three years ago named his successor, should remove him. Bishop Grahmann retains two priests in ministry who are credibly accused of having violated the diocese's policy against sexual misconduct ([Dallas Morning News](#), 1/26/03).

## **Accused Priest Charged**

A Catholic priest's ministry to poor people has charged them millions while spending large sums on real estate and cars. Dallas Bishop Charles Grahmann assigned the Rev. Justin Lucio to the unsupervised ministry after deeming him unfit for parish work a decade ago. Father Lucio lost his pastor's job in 1989 after accusations of sexual and financial misconduct. His name vanished from the directory's national roll of priests for nearly a decade. Asked in his deposition whether he had left the priesthood for a time, he responded: "I have been, will be for all eternity, a priest by holy order." Under continued questioning, he said that no one could revoke his status as a priest - "not even God." The priest then set up *Little House of Mary*, a tax-exempt corporation that has counseled thousands of undocumented immigrants. Dallas police have named some staff members as suspects in the unsolved theft of about \$50,000. The ministry's reported income - virtually all cash - totaled nearly \$1 million in 2001. It is described as a money-making machine because of the ease of making money off people who live in the shadows and die in the shadows. Two male immigrants testified that Father Lucio had used threats and promises to pressure them into intercourse. The priest gave them shelter, sometimes paid them and sometimes threatened to turn them in to U.S. immigration authorities. One of the men swore that Father Lucio also offered to "fix our papers" so they could stay in the country legally. He said the priest had tried to get the brothers to lie in their depositions by offering them part of the money he hoped to win in the lawsuit. ([Dallas Morning News](#), 1/13/03).

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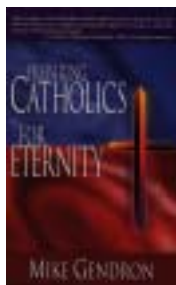
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*"Those who are in  
the flesh cannot  
please God.  
But you are not in the  
flesh but in the Spirit,  
if indeed the Spirit of  
God dwells in you.  
Now if anyone does  
not have the Spirit of  
Christ, he is not His."  
([Romans 8:8-9](#) )*

## The Jesus of the Bible

- ◆ the only human who was ever conceived without sin and lived a sinless life ([Heb. 4:15; 7:26; Mat. 1:20](#)).
- ◆ the only mediator between God and man ([1 Tim. 2:5](#))
- ◆ finished His perfect and all-sufficient work of redemption ([Heb. 9:12](#))
- ◆ saves sinners completely, to the uttermost ([Heb. 7:25](#))
- ◆ saves justified sinners *forever* by bearing all their sins ([Rom. 8:30; 2 Cor. 5:21](#))
- ◆ redeemed sinners from the curse of the law ([Gal. 3:13, Rom. 10:4](#))
  
- ◆ paid the complete punishment for sin, cancelling sin's entire debt ([Col. 2:13-14](#))
  
- ◆ offered Himself *once* for sins for all time; there are no more offerings for sin ([Heb. 10:12, 14, 18](#))
- ◆ will return a second time the same way He left, after the tribulation in wondrous glory! ([Acts 1:11; Mat. 24:27-30; Heb. 9:28](#))

## The Jesus of Rome

- was *not* the only human ever conceived without sin and sinless. The Mary of Rome robs Jesus of His unique holiness ([966](#))
- *is not* the only mediator, Rome's Mary robs Christ of His unique position ([969, 494](#)).
- *did not* finish the work, He is scandalized by continuous offerings for sin ([1405](#))
- *does not* save Catholics completely; Catholics attain their own salvation ([1471](#))
- saves justified Catholics *conditionally*, only if they remain in grace ([1035](#))
- *did not* redeem Catholics from the curse of the law; they must obey the law to be saved ([2068](#))
- *did not* pay complete punishment, Catholics suffer in purgatory, gain indulgences and do penance to expiate their sin ([1459](#))
- is offered *200,000 times each day* on Catholic altars as a sacrificial "victim" for sins ([1367](#))
- returns to the earth *daily* when priests transubstantiate wafers into his body and blood, soul and divinity ([1374](#))

### ([Saved from page 2](#))

and hear Him say, "I never knew you; depart from Me" into the eternal lake of fire. Yet, there are many Catholics and non-Catholics who will hear these words unless they come to know and trust Jesus through His word.

Doctrinal error must be lovingly exposed and corrected using the infallible word of God. False teachings that have been veiled with truth can be difficult to detect. In fact, error is seldom presented, without first mixing it with truth, lest it be immediately identified. Those who use doctrinal error to control and deceive the unsuspecting are usually covered outwardly with sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. Catholics must be warned repeatedly. Their eternal destinies hang in the balance!

The Apostle Paul said that he was free from the blood of all men. May the same be true of every ambassador for Jesus Christ! Christian love is making the Gospel clear so that those who are lost in their *religion* will recognize their need for a Savior. One of the most visible characteristics of a genuine Christian is their faithfulness in glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ through the consistent proclamation of His Gospel.