

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

DON'T GO THERE

Towards the end of my time in the hospital a brother in Christ and I ventured into the chapel. What a sight. An inter-denominational sitting room complete with all sorts of religious paraphernalia. One item that really caught my eye was the “Holy Water.” I had some questions for the chaplain about said water. She had answers. I then asked, “*Can you read about anything you just said in the Bible?*” Her countenance changed and she said sharply, “*Don’t go there, Scott. Just don’t go there.*” I thought to myself, “*How appropriate a statement since Catholics wish to avoid biblical discussions.*”

Folks, here’s the truth: the Bible says not a word about holy water. In fact, God’s Word is silent about all Catholic dogma. Below are some examples.

- The Catholic Church forbids marriage for clergy. The Bible teaches no such thing. In fact, the Bible calls such a teaching a doctrine of devils (**1 Timothy 4:1-3**).
- Catholicism forbids eating meat on certain days. This again is called a doctrine of devils (**1 Timothy 4:1-5**).
- Catholicism requires rote prayers based on a string of beads (a rosary). One cannot read about a rosary in the Bible. Moreover, Jesus condemned repetitious prayers (**Matthew 6:7**).
- Catholicism demands that Mary is worshipped. The Bible never speaks about such. In fact, the Bible clearly states that God alone is to be worshipped (**Matthew 4:10; John 4:23-24**).
- The Catholic Church advances the teaching of the Immaculate Conception. Nowhere in the Bible can one read about such. Thus, let’s remember the principle behind **1 Corinthians 4:6**.
- Catholicism teaches that Jesus was Mary’s only biological son. This may well be a Roman Catholic tradition, but it is not something that can be read about in the Bible. God’s Word informs us that Mary gave birth to other children after Jesus (**Matthew 13:54-56**).
- Catholicism places man-made traditions on par with scripture. Moreover, Catholic tradition trumps scripture when there is a conflict between the two. The Bible advances the opposite view (**Mark 7:7-9**).
- According to the Catholic Church certain religious officials are to be called Father. Such is in direct opposition to the teachings of Christ (**Matthew 23:9**).
- Catholicism demands that each church member confess their sins to a priest at least once a year. The Bible teaches us that we are to confess our sins to God (**Luke 18:13-14; Acts 18:14-22**).
- The Catholic Church insists that a saint is a particularly holy person, recognized by fellow believers as someone who lived a divine life, and who is in the Divine presence after death. One will look in vain to find such a teaching in the Bible. The Bible teaches that saints are living people who have obeyed the gospel (**1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2:14**).
- Catholicism teaches that the Law of Moses is binding today. The Bible does not agree. The Law of Moses has been abrogated according to the Bible (**Ephesians 2:13-15; Colossians 2:14-17**).
- The Catholic Church baptizes (sprinkles) infants to remove the stain of Original Sin. One cannot come close to finding evidence to support said teaching in the scriptures. One can find plenty of passages that disprove the Catholic claim (cf. **Acts 8:36-39; 8:12; Ecclesiastes 7:29**).
- The Catholic Church has a man (the Pope) serving as the head of the church. The word “Pope” is not in the Bible. Jesus is the head of the church (**Ephesians 1:22-23**).

The list could go on for many more pages, but we won’t go there.