

# Catholicism vs. Evangelicalism: What's the Difference?

## #7 Recent R.C.C. Developments; Summary

Catholic Charismatic Renewal (began 1966 at Duquesne U. in Pittsburg)

Vatican II (1962-65):

More tolerant *tone* than Vat. I, but affirmed traditional "core" dogmas with some changes:

1. Mass now performed in vernacular native language instead of Latin
2. More active participation of laity now allowed
3. Softened view of Eucharist/Transubstantiation without clearly *defining* new view
4. Softening of traditional dogma that salvation is \_\_\_\_\_ found in R.C.C.:
  - Protestants no longer "\_\_\_\_\_" & "schismatics," but "separated brethren" (but note: "\_\_\_\_\_" of salvation still *only* available in R.C.C.)
  - "Baptism of desire" – a person sincerely *desiring* baptism/salvation in R.C.C. but prevented by circumstances is \_\_\_\_\_ baptized in eyes of Church
  - "Implicit Desire for Church" – those guilty of "invincible" ignorance (beyond their control) can still be \_\_\_\_\_ merely via sincere heart desire to know/please God

Sincere religious experience of *even non-Christian religions* is now considered by R.C.C. to be "\_\_\_\_\_" since "gleams" of special revelation are "present throughout human experience & \_\_\_\_\_"

Biblical response:

This confuses "general revelation" (Rom. 1:20ff.) & "special revelation" (2 Tim. 3:15-17)

Non-Christian religions in Bible = *consistently, uniformly* regarded as *non-saving* at best & \_\_\_\_\_ at worst! (Deut. 32:15-18, Isa. 46:6-7, Acts 2:5 & 38, 14:15, 26:17-18, I Thess. 1:9)

*Explicit* knowledge of & \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ is *absolutely* \_\_\_\_\_ for salvation (Acts 10 Cornelius example – 11:14, Romans 10:9-15, Acts 4:12, John 14:6)

5. R.C.C.'s destructive turn towards "subjective" & "experiential":

Emphasis moving from objective, external Church structures & dogma to *inward, subjective experience* of God; Bible is not infallible, objective Truth; rather inward religious *experience* of

Bible authors & us = Truth (thus – is *no objective standard* of orthodoxy & morality)

Result – diffusion & splintering within R.C.C. into all kinds of factions & subgroups – Church is now a “vast Noah’s Ark of beasts, clean & unclean”! For example:

- “\_\_\_\_\_ Theology” – Gustavo Gutierrez (Peru) & Leonardo Boff (Brazil) – basically Marxism with thin veneer of Catholicism – champions cause of poor over rich
- Incipient Universalism – *explicit* knowledge of/faith in Jesus = \_\_\_\_\_ necessary for salvation!

#### Different types of Catholics in World Today:

- Ultratraditional Catholics – resent Vatican II changes, intolerant of changes
- Traditionalist Catholics – many in Church hierarchy; critical of theological liberalism, submissive to pope & traditional core dogma
- Liberal Catholics – have replaced authority of dogma, creeds, & Bible with human reason, have rejected supernatural elements of N.T., embraced Marxist elements (Liberation Theology) and/or New Age elements (“Creation-centered” spirituality of Matthew Fox) & rejected many traditional moral norms of the Church
- Charismatic/Evangelical Catholics – up to 10 million American Catholics influenced by this movement – R.C.’s now make up 20% of total worldwide Pentecostal/ Charismatics – tend to be more conservative & “Evangelical” in beliefs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Catholics – the majority of R.C.’s in world, certainly in U.S. – do not understand or seriously follow their Church’s teaching, more of a “cultural/social” identity (Kennedy’s)
- Popular “Folk Catholics” – the majority in many Latin American countries & Philippines – mix in Catholic teachings with underlying animism & occultism

#### Summary Critique:

1. R.C.C.’s view of salvation is unbiblical, “sacerdotal,” obscured by sacramentalism & legalism
2. R.C.C.’s addition of “Tradition” to Scripture alone as basis of faith & morals is \_\_\_\_\_
3. R.C.C.’s Mariology is unbiblical & \_\_\_\_\_ & insulting to God
4. R.C.C.’s view of “Mass” as ongoing “sacrifice” of Christ & of Eucharist as literal body & blood of Christ are profoundly unbiblical & even \_\_\_\_\_
5. R.C.C. tends to rob Christians of joy of *personal* Bible study & “priestly” service
6. R.C.C. doctrine of Purgatory is unbiblical & blunts motivation to serve God wholeheartedly in this short life
7. R.C.C. may be guilty of obscuring Gospel message giving “false \_\_\_\_\_” to millions headed towards hell