

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Matthew 16:18 – “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

Who or what is “this rock” in Matthew 16:18?

What is the origin of the RCC?

Does the RCC claim to be the one true church of Jesus Christ?

*"Urged by faith, we are obliged to believe and to maintain that the Church is one, holy, catholic, and also apostolic. We believe in her firmly and we confess with simplicity that outside of her there is neither salvation nor the remission of sins...In her then is one Lord, one faith, one baptism [Ephesians 4:5]. There had been at the time of the deluge only one ark of Noah, prefiguring the one Church, which ark, having been finished to a single cubit, had only one pilot and guide, i.e., Noah, and we read that, outside of this ark, all that subsisted on the earth was destroyed....Furthermore, we declare, we proclaim, we define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff." .Pope Boniface VIII (1235-1303 [CE](#)) promulgated a Papal Bull in 1302 CE titled *Unam Sanctam* (One Holy).*

RCC Doctrine: The seven sacraments

1. Baptism
2. Penance/Reconciliation
3. The Eucharist
4. Confirmation
5. Matrimony
6. Holy Orders
7. Extreme unction

What are the main differences in beliefs between the RCC and Protestantism?

Theological Belief	Roman Catholic Church	Conservative Protestants
Apostolic succession	Believe in the Apostolic succession: ordinations traceable back to St. Peter.	Concept rejected as historically invalid; It simply didn't happen
Baptism, significance of	Sacrament which regenerates and justifies. Necessary for salvation	Testimony of a prior regeneration
Baptism, timing	Usually done in infancy	Usually done later in life after person is "born again."
Church, structure	Hierarchical	Democratic
Confession of sins	To a priest	To Jesus Christ
Immaculate conception of Mary	Required belief	Denied
Infallibility of Pope	Required belief in matters of doctrine and faith	Denied
Lord's supper, Eucharist	A sacrifice. Christ's body and blood physically present and are consumed by believers.	Memorial meal. Christ's body and blood are present symbolically only.
	Mary's status is below Jesus, but above that of the saints. Some regard Mary as co-redemptrix with Jesus; this is not currently church teaching	Mary plays a relatively minor role. Only trusting in Jesus saves a person.
Sacraments	The means of grace.	The symbols of grace.
Salvation, achieving	Dependent on faith, works, and sacraments.	**Dependent on faith only.**
Salvation, losing	Is responsible when a responsible person commits a mortal sin. It can be regained through repentance and the sacrament of confession.	Usually, once a person is saved, they cannot lose their salvation.

What if you've never heard of the RCC?

"The non-Christian may not be blamed for his ignorance of Christ and his Church; salvation is open to him also, if he seeks God sincerely and if he follows the commands of his conscience, for through this means the Holy Ghost acts upon all men; this divine action is not confined within the limited boundaries of the visible Church." - **Dogmatic Constitution on the Church - Lumen Gentium** (1964) is one of many documents to come out of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council

Why is there ~1 RCC and over a thousand different Protestant churches in N. America alone?