

The Church

4.20.22

Quick Review.....

I. Jesus and the church

He died for the church

He is the head of the church

He is personally involved in building the church

II. What is the church?

The word “church” is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia*, which is defined as “an assembly” or “called-out ones.” The root meaning of *church* is not that of a building, but of people.

III. The church is local and universal

The universal church

The local church

IV. The church began at Pentecost

V. What makes a good local church?

-They teach and preach the Word

-They administer the sacraments

VI. What is the reason for the church?

-Worship

-Making better followers

-Outreach

Week 2

I. **Current problems/challenges in local churches with balance of purpose**

When the threefold purpose of church is imbalanced the ministry of that local church will be stifled.

-Worship

-Making better followers

-Outreach

II. **What is the major difference in Protestant and Roman Catholics?**

A. A Protestant is a Christian who belongs to one of the many branches of Christianity that have developed out of the Protestant Reformation started by Martin Luther in 1517.

https://www.gotquestions.org/search.php?zoom_sort=0&zoom_query=catholic+sacraments

B. **What are sacraments in the Roman Catholic church?**

The sacraments are signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, through which Divine life is given.

- 1) Baptism, which the Roman Catholic Church teaches removes original sin while infusing the act with sanctifying grace.
- 2) Penance, in which one confesses his/her sins to a priest.
- 3) The Eucharist, considered the reception and consumption of the actual body and blood of Christ.
- 4) Confirmation, a formal acceptance into the church along with special anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- 5) Anointing of the sick, performed by a priest using oil. The priest anoints the sick person's forehead and hands with oil. This is associated not only with bodily healing but with forgiveness of sins. When performed on a dying person, it is called Extreme Unction (or last rites or final anointing).
- 6) Holy Orders, the process by which men are ordained to clergy.
- 7) Matrimony, which provides special grace to a couple.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/seven-Catholic-sacraments.html>

C. The major differences in Roman Catholics and Protestants. (Wayne Grudem)

1. The authority of the Pope

Response: The apostles left their writings (= the New Testament) to take their place as the governing authority over the church; thus, the Bible, not any human person, has ultimate authority over the church:

2 Tim 1:13 Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus.

2 Pet 1:19; Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines[☉] in your hearts.

2. The authority of tradition in addition to scripture

Response: The canon of Scripture is closed and no later teachings have authority equal to it

Hebrews 1:1 long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets.

3. The apocrypha as part of the Bible

Response: The Apocrypha is not the Word of God and should not be part of the Bible: not counted as such by first century Jews, by Jesus, by NT authors; or by the RC church until 1546.

4. The prayers to, veneration, and co-mediator status of Mary

--Response: We should pray to God alone, through Christ alone:

1 Timothy 2:5 For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.

--Response: We should worship only God, not any created being:

Isa 48:11 I will rescue you for my sake—
yes, for my own sake!
I will not let my reputation be tarnished,
and I will not share my glory with idols!

--Response: Salvation is earned for us by Christ alone, and the NT is saturated with praise to Christ alone, not to Mary, for our salvation:

Philippians 2:9 Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all other names,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

5. The Eucharist

Response: Christ's sacrifice was finished once for all time on the cross:

Hebrews 10:12-13 But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand. ¹³ There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet.

6. The source of salvation

Response: Justification is by faith alone (this is the heart of the Gospel):

Ephesians 2:8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

--The saving power of baptism

Response: Baptism is only an outward physical symbol of an inward work of God, and, like all other outward "works," it does not save anyone:

--The saving power of the sacraments

Response: No works (or sacraments) can earn us merit before God or contribute to our salvation:

Gal 2:16 Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law."

7. The suffering of purgatory

Response: Believers who die go directly to heaven to be with Christ at once:

Luke 23:43 And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

8. The salvation of souls who have never the gospel

Response: The Bible gives us no grounds for believing this or encouragement to believe it:

Romans 10:13 ¹³ For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."^[a]

¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? ¹⁵ And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

9. The "one true church" doctrine

Response: The true church is wherever the Gospel is truly preached and baptism and the Lord's Supper are rightly observed:

Romans 16:5 Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home.

10. The power of the priest in dispensing grace.

Response: All God's people are now a kingdom of priests and all minister grace to one another through the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

1 Peter 2:9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests,^[a] a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.