

First Words

A. To be a follower of Catholicism is to belong to the _____ religion in Christendom Catholics make up the largest Christian denomination.

- There are – 1.2 billion Catholics, 16% of the world’s population.
- In the NYC Metro area there over 2.5 million Catholics. That number is shrinking.
- On Staten Island there are 250,000 Catholics or 54% of the population. This number is declining

B. To be a follower of Catholicism is to have a long _____

1. The Catholic Church sees its beginning at Pentecost in *Acts 2*
2. Peter is seen as the first authoritative leader of the church and became its first Pope (Papa)
3. The Early Church Fathers wrote extensively regarding every topic imaginable from what became the Catholic perspective
4. In 312 AD the Catholic Church saw the conversion of Constantine the Roman emperor who was baptized and made Christianity (Catholicism) acceptable. In 380AD it was made the official religion of the Roman Empire
5. Many practices of the pagans of the Roman Empire were incorporated into Catholicism to accommodate them. Compromises included certain holidays and rituals.
6. In 1054 AD the Catholic Church is split in two with the Eastern Church becoming its own entity known as the Eastern Orthodox Church. (The Coptic Church, Indian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox etc. sprung from this)
7. In around 1517 AD the Church splits again with the Protestant Reformation led by Martin Luther and John Calvin

C. To be a follower of Catholicism is to embrace these specific _____

- The importance of the sacraments – “A sacrament is a visible sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace.”
- The Mass and Transubstantiation
- The authority of the Pope and the Church
- The extra set of “inspired books” known as the Apocrypha
- The high place of Mary, the mother of God
- The celibacy of the priesthood
- The equality of Scripture and Tradition
- The recognition of saints and prayers to them
- Infant baptism for the removal of original sin
- Purgatory for a purging to make oneself ready for heaven

D. To be a follower of Catholicism is to seek to practice these seven _____.

1. _____ – As an infant, as soon as possible, to remove original sin
2. The _____ – Partaking of the blood and body of Christ at Mass
3. _____ – The confession of one’s sins and receiving forgiveness from a priest
4. _____ – A special strengthening by the Holy Spirit by the anointing of oil
5. _____ – The joys and mutual support of Marriage including the having of children
6. _____ – preparing the recipient for heaven or healing
7. _____ - The Roman Catholic Priesthood

D. To be a follower of Jesus Christ verses to be a follower of Catholicism

1. Regarding one's view of God
2. Regarding one's view of the Bible and the Tradition
3. Regarding one's view of sin and salvation
4. Regarding one's view of Jesus Christ

E. How should a follower of Jesus Christ view Catholicism?

1. As an adding religion that replaces Scripture with human tradition – *Mark 7:13*
2. As a faith plus works religion that replaces grace/mercy with human effort – *Galatians 2:16*
3. As a problematic religion that teaches things authoritatively that aren't true – *Matthew 15:9*

Why I am a follower of Jesus Christ and not a follower of Catholicism?

1. "Sola Scriptura" - _____ – *1 Corinthians 15:3-4*
2. "Sola Gratia" - _____ – *2 Timothy 1:9*
3. "Sola Fide" - _____ – *Romans 1:17*
4. "Solus Christus" - _____ – *Colossians 2:9-10*
5. "Soli Deo Gloria" - _____ – *Ephesians 1:6, 12 & 14*

Why I am a Follower of
JESUS CHRIST



**NOT A FOLLOWER OF
CATHOLICISM**

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at Calvary Chapel