

“CHARISMATIC CATHOLICS”

and the

WORD OF GOD

Is the “Catholic Charismatic Movement” the work of the Holy Spirit?

The answer to this question is all-important; for if it *is*, then charismatic Roman Catholics are Christians; if it is *not*, then charismatic Roman Catholics are NOT true Christians!

Charismatic Roman Catholics may be angered at such a question. Yet truth demands that the question be asked. The Charismatic Movement, as with everything else, must be judged in the light of the Word of God, the Bible. *Assuming* that it is of God, because it appears to be biblical, is not good enough: it must be *proved* to be biblical.

There is another question, however, which must be answered before the first, and it is this: is the Roman Catholic institution a Christian church? Again, the answer is all-important. It is so important that it is literally a matter of life or death for hundreds of millions of souls. For if it is *not* a Christian church, then Roman Catholics (non-charismatics and charismatics) are not Christians; and if they are not Christians, then what Jesus said applies to them: “wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat” (Matthew 7:13). Hundreds of millions of people are on their way to hell, if Roman Catholicism is not Christian!

Is Roman Catholicism Christian? According to the Word of God, the Bible, the answer, horrifying as it is, is NO.

A Christian church believes, teaches, and practices the doctrines of Jesus Christ, as recorded in the Scriptures (Acts 2:42, 1 Timothy 1:3, 4:13, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, etc.). And it rejects anything that is not in the Scriptures.

The Roman Catholic institution does not believe, teach, or practice the doctrines of Christ. It does not follow the Word of God. It does not believe, for example, that salvation is *ONLY* by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8,9), and that good works will never save anyone. It does not believe that Jesus Christ *ALONE* is the Mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5), but exalts Mary to the position of “Mediatrice”. It does not believe that *ALL* have sinned and come short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23), for it claims that Mary was conceived without sin. It does not believe that Christ’s sacrifice on the cross was a once-only sacrifice, and was sufficient (Hebrews 7:26-28, etc.), because it claims to repeat the sacrifice daily, in the Mass. It does not believe or teach these things. On the contrary, it teaches for doctrines “the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9). Its doctrines are not biblical. There is not a single verse in all Scripture to support such blasphemous doctrines as the Mass, Purgatory, the pope of Rome’s infallibility, Mary’s immaculate conception, tradition being equal in authority to the Bible, to name just a few.

The Bible says that salvation is a *gift* of God (Romans 6:23), and cannot be earned (Ephesians 2:8,9). One can only be saved from sin and hell by God’s grace, through faith in Christ *alone*. The Roman Catholic system, however, claims that salvation is by a complicated system of faith *AND* works: that baptism makes one a child of God, that one must partake of the Mass, that one must go to confession, and so on.

In addition to not believing or teaching the Word of God, Rome does not *practice* the Word of God. Its long history is filled with examples of how it has violated the commands of the Lord. The “Dark Ages” with all their abominations; the Crusades; the “Holy Inquisition”; and much more – it never obeyed the Word of God. It never followed the example of the Saviour, but filled the pages of history with massacres, murders, and all sorts of crimes. It did not follow His example, nor His teaching (see for example, Ephesians 4:31,32).

The Bible describes the Roman Catholic institution in Revelation 17 and 18, where it is called, “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (Revelation 17:5). Although described symbolically under the name, “Babylon”, it is clear this is not the ancient city of Babylon being referred to, but Roman Catholicism. The description is perfect: the colours (17:4), the wealth (v.4), the record of bloodshed (v.6), the location on seven hills (v.9), etc. Rome is called a harlot – but the true Church is always called a chaste virgin in Scripture.

The evidence cannot be refuted. According to the Bible, the Roman Catholic institution is not Christian, but a pagan system in a “Christian” disguise.

Is it therefore possible for a person to be both Roman Catholic and Christian? No.

If Roman Catholicism is not Christian, then Roman Catholics cannot be Christians. They have been deceived, tragically trusting in their “Church” instead of trusting in Jesus Christ, the only Saviour (John 14:6). It is impossible to be a Christian, and to continue to believe and practice the doctrines of a false religious system.

Now it is possible to answer the first question: is the “Catholic Charismatic Movement” the work of the Holy Spirit? Despite all the claims of the charismatics, the answer is NO. The Holy Spirit is not the author of the Charismatic Movement. And charismatic Roman Catholics are not Christians. For, despite the word “Charismatic”, *they are still Roman Catholics!*

Jesus said, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13). When a person is truly born again of the Spirit of God, the Spirit constantly guides that person into ALL TRUTH – the truth of the Word of God (John 17:17). And yet, charismatic Roman Catholics, though they claim to have had a “born-again experience”, though they claim to have “received the Holy Spirit”, STILL REMAIN Roman Catholics! They still attend the Mass, which pretends to be a repetition of Christ’s all-sufficient, once-only sacrifice (Hebrews 9:24-26). They still pray to the saints and the virgin Mary. They still believe in the various false and heretical teachings of their “Church”. In fact, not only do they remain in the Roman Catholic system, but many charismatics claim that since their “baptism in the Spirit”, their love for the Roman Catholic “Church” has *increased*. They thus give evidence that it is not the Holy Spirit at work in their lives, but a different spirit altogether; a spirit that desires to keep them in bondage to this false system, and thus in bondage to Satan himself. The Holy Spirit guides true believers into all truth – NEVER further into error.

The ONLY ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Roman Catholics, is to convict them of sin, and lead them unto Christ and thus true salvation – and out of Rome. When a Roman Catholic is convicted of his sins, and of the impossibility of being saved through Roman Catholicism, he repents of his sins, trusting in Christ alone for salvation, and forsakes Romanism in obedience to the Lord’s command in Revelation 18:4: “*Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues*”. Once a Roman Catholic is converted, he cannot remain Roman Catholic.

Charismatic Roman Catholics often say they are remaining in the Roman Catholic “Church” in order to either, a) reform it, or b) witness “from the inside”. This is a trick of Satan. Firstly, according to Scripture, the Harlot system will *never* “reform” (see Revelation 18). In fact, by its own admission, Rome does not change. When a dogma is established, that dogma can never be repealed. Secondly, false religion can never be reformed, only rejected. Thirdly, since it is a false religious system, the Holy Spirit would not lead a truly converted Roman Catholic to go back and “work from within”. Instead, He leads them *out*, setting them completely free from false religion. The REAL testimony is when a saved person separates himself completely from paganism, in accordance with God’s Word in 2 Corinthians 6:14,17: “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?... Wherefore *come out* from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord”.

The doctrine of separation is found throughout the pages of Scripture. God’s people are not to be yoked together with unbelievers.

Charismatics often say that it is not doctrine they are concerned with, but love and brotherhood; that it is not important what one believes, so long as there is love. Another lie! Jesus said, in Matthew 28:19, “Go ye therefore, and *teach* all nations”, and in v.20, “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I

have commanded you”. Christians are to be taught sound doctrine; they are to be taught *all* the counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

What a person believes is vitally important. In 1 John 5:1 we read, “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God”. Charismatic Roman Catholics will say they believe this; but to believe that Jesus is the Christ, means that one believes He is the *Messiah* (for this is the meaning of “Christ”) – and if one believes this, one believes that He alone can save, that His sacrifice was sufficient, that He alone is the Mediator, etc. If charismatic Roman Catholics truly believed all this, they would forsake Romanism, for Romanism denies all this, through the Mass, through venerating the saints, through calling Mary Mediatrix, etc. To believe that Jesus is the Christ, means to believe all that the Word reveals about Christ. When a person believes the truth, he is biblically saved. Again, the evidence is clear: the “Catholic Charismatic Movement” is not of God.

The Charismatic Movement is characterised by “signs and wonders”: speaking in “tongues”, healings, miracles, etc. Multitudes within the Movement believe that doctrine is not important. The issue is whether or not one speaks in tongues, etc. The Lord Jesus Christ said, “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I *never knew* you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:22,23). “I NEVER KNEW you”! “Many” performing miracles, prophesying, and more – but they are not even saved! They are not children of God! They are not born again! Signs and wonders are not evidence of true conversion. What *is* the evidence of genuine conversion? “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). It is not enough to claim one is saved. There must be evidence. And the evidence is this, that a truly saved person will hear the sayings of the Lord, and *do* them (v.24). He will live according to God’s Word. And that includes separation from evil.

It is impossible to have the Holy Spirit within you, unless you are saved (see Romans 8, etc.). A Roman Catholic cannot receive the Holy Spirit, for he is still unconverted. One receives the Holy Spirit *at* conversion.

The charismatic Roman Catholics, despite all their claims, are not true children of God. They are still in the kingdom of darkness, still in bondage to the Great Whore, the Roman Catholic institution. They are deceived into believing it is possible to be both Roman Catholic and Christian at the same time. This is impossible.

Salvation is not possible through Roman Catholicism. Only in CHRIST is there salvation. Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, God manifest in the flesh, shed His blood on the cross to redeem sinners (1 Peter 1:18,19), and rose from the dead, never to die again (Romans 6:9). “Neither is there salvation in any other [than Christ]: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Jesus said: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). It is a matter of obeying God’s Word, or the commandments and teachings of men. Hell is full of people who obeyed the latter.

If the Holy Spirit has convicted you of your sins, and of your spiritual darkness, *repent* earnestly of your sins (Matthew 4:17; Acts 2:38), and surrender to Him who alone can set you free from sin and eternal death, Jesus Christ. Receive Christ by faith (John 1:12,13). You will then be truly saved (1 John 1:7-9). You will truly be a Christian. Leave the Roman Catholic institution. You are now a child of God, by His grace.

Shaun Willcock

If you have repented of your sins and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, or if you would like to know more about Him, His Gospel, and the true Christian life, please contact us.

Bible Based Ministries

info@biblebasedministries.co.uk

www.biblebasedministries.co.uk

This tract may be copied for free distribution if it is copied in full