



School of Prophets

Understanding Roman Catholicism

Professor: David James

Course Purpose

This course is designed to give the student a working knowledge of of Roman Catholicism with a view to effective ministry to present and former Catholics alike by focusing on both evangelism and discipleship.

Scope of the Course

In 10 class-hours, the student will learn the essentials of Roman Catholic theology, with special attention being given to four major theological issues that separate evangelicals and Catholics - namely, "authority," "justification," "the mass" and "Mariology." In addition to presenting the teachings of Roman Catholicism, the student will be provided with a biblical response to each of the major theological arguments of the Roman Catholic church for its views.

Course Components: Masters level

Reading

"Essentials of Roman Catholicism" 10%

Paper (18-24 pages). **90%**

The paper to satisfy the master's level requirements of this course will take the form of an evangelistic and discipleship tool for ministry to present and former Roman Catholic readers. In other words, it should be written in such a way that it could be made into a booklet that could be handed to a Catholic or former Catholic for the purpose of helping them to understand the biblical gospel, as well as the major differences between Roman Catholic theology and what the Bible actually teaches.

The paper should consist of the following sections:

1. Introduction: a clear presentation of the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ (2-3 pages)
2. Authority, Justification, the Mass, Mariology: a presentation of both the Catholic view of the Catholic Church's teaching in each of these four major areas of differences between evangelicals and Catholics, as well as a clear and detailed biblical response to each primary point within each of the four major areas. (3.5 - 4.5 pages for each section)
3. Conclusion: A clear, concise invitation for present Catholics to trust in Christ alone for salvation and an invitation to saved, but practicing Catholics to consider re-evaluating their relationship to the Church and consider trying to find a new church home that consistently teaches the biblical truth. (2-3 pages)

Course Components: Doctoral level

Reading

"Essentials of Roman Catholicism" 10%

Catholicism and Fundamentalism by Karl Keating. 10%

Paper (26-30 pages). **80%**

The paper to satisfy the doctoral level requirements for this course will involve interaction with and response to Karl Keating's pro-Catholic / anti-fundamentalist apologetic arguments in chapters 9-22 of his book *Catholicism and Fundamentalism*. For 10 of these 13 chapters, the student should summarize Keating's argument (up to 1 page per chapter)

and then develop a biblical, logical and historical (where applicable) response to each of Keatings major points (2-3 pages per chapter).

Paper Guidelines

General citations and endnotes (not footnotes): Because this is a research paper, except for those ideas, concepts, conclusions, etc., that are completely the student's, any statements, ideas, concepts based on the researched material that would probably not be common knowledge by the general public needs to be appropriately cited (with end notes). Due to the relative brevity of the paper, total quotations from any sources should not make up more than 10% of the paper.

Biblical citations: As a research paper, an accepted academically credible translation (not paraphrase) of the Bible should be used consistently throughout. Preferred versions would include the KJV, NKJV, NASB, and ESV. The NIV (original version) is acceptable, but not preferred.

The paper should not contain long block quotations from Scripture as it is assumed the reader of the paper will have access to the text. The quotation of one or two verses in-line to make a particularly strong point is acceptable. Otherwise, summarize the main point of a longer passage and just refer to the passage.

Note concerning sources: Primary source material is that which is first said, generally by a proponent of a position, while secondary sources are quotes of the primary source by other proponents, opponents or neutral reporters or commentators. Primary sources can include books, articles (print or internet), blogs and comments. When a secondary source refers to a primary source, good practice is to confirm the quote is accurate and cite the primary source. This is not always possible, so in this case, the format would be "...[primary source] as quoted by [secondary source] in ..."

FORMATTING: In general you should follow the *MLA Handbook* guidelines.

Paper size/type: 8 ½ x 11

Font: 12 point Times Roman or Arial (or the equivalent of these)

Margins: .75" for all margins

Spacing: Double-spacing

Length: At least 12 pages and no more than 18 full pages (papers which are shorter will receive 1 full letter grade reduction for each page or portion of a page less than 12; longer papers will not receive higher grades or extra-credit.)

Spelling and grammar: Correct spelling and grammar are important and mistakes could affect your grade on the paper. Use your spell-checker, and when in doubt, look up the word.

Citations - Use endnotes (not footnotes) and a bibliography: If you use sources for your material, they must be referenced. Endnotes should be used, rather than footnotes - and do not count toward the length of the paper. If you use word-for-word what someone else has written, it must be quoted. If it is longer than two sentences, it should be a block quote. The total of all quotes should not be more than 10% of the paper. You may use abbreviated endnotes for the first citation in the following format:

Abbreviated endnotes: Author's full name, *Title of the book*, pages.

Biblical references: 3-4 -letter book abbreviations - chapter:verse(s)

An abbreviated bibliography in alphabetical order should be included at the end in the following format:

Author's last name, first name. *Book title*. Most recent publish date.

NOTE: Endnotes and bibliography do not count toward the required pages.

A cover page should be used according to MLA guidelines with your name, date, and course title and number

Email assignments to djames@biblicalintegrity.org or mail to

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