

Chapter 14

Western Religion

Proverb: All roads lead to Rome.

*Enter through the narrow gate.
For wide is the gate and broad is the road
that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.
But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life,
and only a few find it.*
(Matthew 7:13-14)

The Roman Empire took authority over Christian religion in 312 AD. Constantine, a Roman emperor, made Roman Catholic teaching preeminent. Declaring himself the supreme pontiff (Pontifex Maximus), Constantine held authority over all other pontiffs. False doctrine and practices grew and prospered. Today, perhaps the most surprising false teaching in the Roman Catholic Church is its version of the Ten Commandments.

That most adults cannot recite all Ten Commandments is concerning, but not shocking. What is surprising is that the majority of people who consider themselves Christian, were never taught all ten commands. In scripture, the second commandment forbids idolatry; Catholic teaching camouflages this command to hide the sin that permeates its traditions.

“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. (Exodus 20:4-6; Second Commandment)

When Catholic theologians reached the tenth command, there was a dilemma. It would be foolhardy to draw attention to the missing second command by presenting just nine commandments. Interpreters made an adjustment; the last commandment was split into two commands: *You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,* [Catholic 9th Command] *or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor* [Catholic 10th Command]. (Exodus 20:17, 10th Commandment)

TABLE 14-1: THE HIDDEN SECOND COMMAND

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS		Roman Catholic Commandments
1	You shall have no other gods ...	1
2	You shall not make for yourself an idol ...	
3	You shall not misuse the name of the LORD ...	2
4	Remember the Sabbath ...	3
5	Honor your father and your mother ...	4
6	You shall not murder.	5
7	You shall not commit adultery.	6
8	You shall not steal.	7
9	You shall not give false testimony ...	8
10	You shall not covet ...	9. <u>You shall not covet</u> your neighbor's wife.
		10. <u>You shall not covet</u> your neighbor's goods.

The pope selects deceased persons as “saints.” Proclaiming deceased heroes as “saints” contradicts the scriptural meaning of this title. Ephesians is addressed “to the saints in Ephesus” (Ephesians 1:1) and Philippians “to all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi.” (Philippians 1:1) Revelation refers to living believers as saints. (Revelation 13:7; 13:10; 14:12) No deceased person should ever be contacted through prayer. (1 Timothy 2:5) To attempt to communicate with the dead is a séance, is witchcraft. (1 Samuel 28:7-21)

Catholic doctrine also forbids marriage for priests, and eating meat on certain Fridays. Scripture foretold these rules. *The Spirit clearly says that in the later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.* (1 Timothy 4:1-3)

The King James Version reads: *Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.* (1 Timothy 4:3) Less precise translations deflect criticism from the Roman Church.

Babylon Tradition

When an ancient empire conquered, it took religious control. For example, in 170 BC, King Antiochus Epiphanes ruled Israel. He aggressively imposed the Greek culture and religion on Israel by erecting a statue of the Greek god Zeus inside the temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

When Roman armies conquered, Rome integrated conquered religious practices into the Roman religion. When the Christian faith came into existence, religious leaders merged existing pagan religious traditions, to include practices that originated in Babylon, into the Roman Church. Because of this entanglement between the church and its governing state, the Roman Catholic Church kept traditions that originated in Babylon. Roman Catholic tradition held a status equal to scripture; Christian scripture was interpreted a manner that validated ancient traditions.

Revelation depicts a Roman Church that continues to share in the corruption of the Roman Empire. It describes this empire (beast) and church (prostitute woman) as entwined. The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth. (Revelation 17:18) The capital city and church are the same city, Rome. Accordingly, scriptures depict the Roman Church as a woman, named Babylon. *Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.* (Revelation 17:7) Rome is a *mystery* with two components—the first is a *woman* who is a *prostitute* (Roman Church) and the other half is a *beast* (Roman Empire). While the first is preeminent in religion, the other seeks world conquest.

The relationship the Roman Church shares with world leaders is based on *adultery*—a shared disloyal relationship with God. *With Babylon, the kings of the earth committed adultery.* (Revelation 18:3) By entering into the end-times as friends with world leaders, Babylon commits *adultery* against God. She is faithful to the *kings* (leaders) of this world—but not to the king of heaven. Babylon's behavior is similar to that of an unfaithful wife.

Pope John Paul II was a typical Roman Catholic leader. No less than eighty prime ministers, presidents, kings, and queens attended his funeral; that event was “the largest gathering of statesmen in history.” (1) He warmly met terrorist leaders, receiving Yasser Arafat as a guest on eleven separate occasions. (2) John Paul’s association with Arafat was insignificant compared to the relationship Pope Pius XII held with Adolph Hitler, or the enabling role Pope Pius VII accepted with the war-waging Napoleon.

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. (Revelation 17:1) Babylon sits on many waters, which refers to its worldwide presence; members are found on the sides of every ocean. Its worldwide presence is repeated: Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. (Revelation 17:15)

Many people think highly of the Roman Church. Even most Christians do not accurately perceive her; *the inhabitants of the earth are intoxicated with her religion and traditions. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.” (Revelation 17:2)* Even sincere believers do not see the wickedness of the Roman Church, despite the homosexual molestation of children by its leaders.

God takes John to see the prostitute Babylon. *Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. (Revelation 17:3)* The beast and Babylon are fair-weather friends; they personify covenant (marriage) unfaithfulness. Babylon acts like an unfaithful prostitute, to the shame of the beast.

Bread and Idolatry

Roman Church wealth is much greater than most people realize; Babylon is dressed as a flashy prostitute, *dressed in purple and scarlet*, and appears wealthy with *gold, precious stones and pearls*. However, what really offends God is contained inside a golden cup, which is the chalice: *The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. (Revelation 17:4)*

Roman Catholic sacraments are the (false) ability of priests to perform seven different miracles. (Matthew 7:22-23) For example, Catholics believe that priests are able to transform their communion bread into the body of Jesus. Catholics named this belief “transubstantiation.” Concerning Babylon, there is a *golden cup in her hand that is filled with the filth of her adulteries*. The Roman Church worships the contents of the *golden cup* instead of God. What is inside this cup is communion bread. Its doctrine says that through transubstantiation, the chalice contains the literal Body of Christ—and therefore this bread is worshiped as being God.

However, Catholic priests cannot change bread into Jesus. Chemical analysis of communion bread following transubstantiation shows what is present is still bread; no transformation occurred. The body of Christ in the world today is the church. (Colossians 1:24) Jesus has not physically appeared on earth since returning to heaven in the first century. (Matthew 24:26-28)

A ROMAN MIRACLE

A pretty maid, a Protestant, was to a Catholic wed
To love all Bible truths and tales, quite early she'd been bred.
It sorely grieved her husband's heart that she would not comply,
And join the Mother Church of Rome and heretics deny.

So day by day he flattered her, but still she saw no good
Would ever come from bowing down to idols made of wood.
The Mass, the host, the miracles, were made but to deceive;
And transubstantiation, too, she'd never dare believe.

He went to see his clergyman and told him his sad tale.
“My wife is an unbeliever, sir; you can perhaps prevail;
For all your Romish miracles my wife has strong aversion,
To really work a miracle may lead to her conversion.”

The priest went with the gentleman—he thought to gain a prize.
He said, “I will convert her, sir, and open both her eyes.”
So when they came into the house, the husband loudly cried,
“The priest has come to dine with us!” “He's welcome,” she replied.

And when, at last, the meal was o'er, the priest at once began,
To teach his hostess all about the sinful state of man;
The greatness of our Savior's love, which Christians can't deny.
To give Himself a sacrifice and for our sins to die.

“I will return tomorrow, lass, prepare some bread and wine;
The sacramental miracle will stop your soul’s decline.”
“I’ll bake the bread,” the lady said. “You may,” he did reply,
“And when you’ve seen this miracle, convinced you’ll be, say I.”

The priest did come accordingly, the bread and wine did bless.
The lady asked, “Sir, is it changed?” The priest answered, “Yes.
It’s changed from common bread and wine to truly flesh and blood;
Begorra, lass, this power of mine has changed it into God!”

So having blessed the bread and wine, to eat they did prepare.
The lady said unto the priest, “I warn you to take care,
For half an ounce of arsenic was mixed right in the batter,
But since you have its nature changed, it cannot really matter.”

The priest was struck real dumb—he looked as pale as death.
The bread and wine fell from his hands and he did gasp for breath.
“Bring me my horse!” the priest cried, “This is a cursed home!”
The lady replied, “Begone; tis you who shares the curse of Rome”

The husband, too, he sat surprised, and not a word did say.
At length he spoke, “My dear,” said he, “the priest has run away;
To gulp such mummery and tripe, I’m not for sure, quite able;
I’ll go with you and we’ll renounce this Roman Catholic fable.”
(Irish Poem; Author Unknown)

Contemporary Arsenic

A food protein found in wheat and other grains, called “gluten,” is toxic to a small percent of people. While an average diet contains ten to forty grams of gluten per day, the person with gluten sensitivity, called celiac disease, must eat a gluten-free diet. Diets as low as one hundred milligrams per day have caused damage to the health of celiac patients—that is 1/48th of a slice of bread. (3)

The ingestion of gluten is much like arsenic to a celiac. Yet if the communion bread were actually transformed into the physical presence of Jesus, then the gluten should become benign, the bread should take on the very nature of Christ, and celiac patients could then safely participate in Catholic communion. Take note of a line from the above poem, “But since you have its nature changed, it (the gluten in the bread) cannot really matter.” However, gluten does matter—a gluten-sensitive person simply cannot safely eat communion bread.

The initial Roman Catholic position about bread and wine becoming the body and blood of Christ is clear. The Council of Trent (Session XIII, 1551 AD) said, “a change is brought about of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord, and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood.” Now that chemical analysis is possible, we know that no physical change occurs. The “whole substance of the bread” and “wine” does not change. (4)

Another term, called “accidents” has grown in importance along with the term “substance” when curious Catholics question the validity of their communion. While the “substance” of the bread is still reported to change into the body and blood of Christ— the Catholic Church now admits that “accidents” in communion bread do not change. The term “real presence” is now used to describe the supposed conversion of communion bread. This term is an admission that any presence of Christ in bread must be non-physical. Because the gluten in bread harms celiac patients, gluten along with every other chemical in bread, is part of the “accident” list.

Trust in Religion

During papal Inquisitions, the Catholic Church martyred countless scripture-believing victims who refused to submit to Catholic authority. *I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.* (Revelation 17:6) Popes ordered believers who rejected Roman Catholic tenets torn apart on the rack, gouged with red-hot pincers, and burnt at the stake. Some Catholic countries, particularly Spain in 1478 AD, very aggressively persecuted scripture-based Christians. (John 16:2)

A mark on the forehead shows a covenant relationship between the Babylon Church and her membership. On Ash Wednesday, the Roman Church places ash (dirt) on members’ foreheads.

This title was written on her forehead:

MYSTERY

BABYLON THE GREAT

THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES

AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (Revelation 17:5)

Today's Pharisees

Roman religion established the office of pontiff (pope). This office—thought to have started with Peter—actually began hundreds of years before Jesus. The papal hat is from Assyrian and Babylonian religion. The pope's dress, with sideways crosses, makes a bizarre statement. Jesus never dressed this way. Jesus even ridiculed the Jewish leaders, the Pharisees, who dressed in robes in order to appear righteous. (Matthew 23:5)

The office of pope comes from the misinterpretation of a single scripture. Jesus said: *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.* (Matthew 16:18) Catholics believe "Pope Peter" is the rock upon which the Roman Catholic Church was built. However, the "rock" upon which the true church was built was Jesus, not Peter. (Isaiah 26:4; Psalm 42:9; Ephesians 2:20-21; 1 Corinthians 3:11) Even Peter disagreed with Catholic interpretation; he identified Jesus as the primary stone, the cornerstone, of the church. The cornerstone is the rock—is Jesus himself.

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For in Scripture it says:

*"See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame."* (1 Peter 2:4-6)

Peter's understanding of the eternal rock would be consistent with the Old Testament.

*Trust in the LORD forever,
for the LORD, the LORD,
is the rock eternal.* (Isaiah 26:4)

Two Eternal Cities

Rome is called an Eternal City. Just as Jerusalem symbolizes the eternal heaven, Rome symbolizes the eternal hell. As Jerusalem symbolizes the true king and high priest (Jesus)—Rome symbolizes the false king (Antichrist) and high priest (Pope).

Competing for control of the people, the Roman Empire beast hates the Roman Church. The beast will eventually destroy Babylon. *The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.* (Revelation 17:16) The destruction of Rome is God's most severe judgment of our present Age.

God provides a clear message to people with membership in a pagan church. Many are authentic believers who have been deceived.

*Then I heard another voice from heaven say:
"Come out of her, my people,
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not receive any of her plagues;
for her sins are piled up to heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes.* (Revelation 18:4-5)

This is the call from heaven that so many people trusting in a religious tradition have already heard—to leave tradition and follow Christ. (2 Corinthians 6:17) This message has filled countless scripture-based churches with former Roman Catholics.

Notes:

1. Wikipedia. *List of dignitaries at the funeral of Pope John Paul II*. Apr 22, 2009. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_dignitaries_at_the_funeral_of_Pope_John_Paul_II
2. Vatican Information Service. *Holy See Joins In Pain of Palestinian People for Arafat Death*. Vatican City. Nov 11, 2004.
3. *Celiac.com*. P.O. Box 279, Gardena CA 90248. Apr 22, 2009. <http://www.celiac.com>.
4. *BioKits Gluten Assay Kit*. Tepnel BioSystems Limited, Flintshire, CH5 2NT U.K. Apr 22, 2009. <http://www.tepnel.com>.

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