

CATHOLICISM AGAINST ITSELF

Does the Catholic Church Approve Free Use of the Bible?

We present a number of quotations from books that have been issued in recent years by Catholic authors.

The Bible Not a Safe Book

“The very nature of the Bible ought to prove to any thinking man the impossibility of its being the one safe method to find out what the Saviour taught” (*Question Box*, 67, 1913 edition).

Bible Not a Clear Statement of the Teachings of Christ

“The Bible does not pretend to be a formulary of belief, as is a creed or a catechism. There is nowhere in the New Testament a clear, methodical statement of the teaching of Christ” (*Question Box*, 66).

“That the test of the bible is not clear and conclusive on many points of doctrine on which it does treat, is efficiently proved by the very discordances of those who attempt to deduce doctrine from it without any other aid” (*Plain Facts*, 23).

Impossible To Find Christ in the Bible, They Say

“Again, it has ever been practically impossible for men, generally, to find out Christ from the Bible only” (*Question Box*, 70).

Bible Not a textbook of Christianity for Catholics

“The Bible was not intended to be a textbook of the Christian religion” (*Cath. Facts*, 50).

Human Laws Equal Divine Laws!

“Akin to these divine laws is the purely ecclesiastical law or law of the Church. Christ sent forth His Church clothed with His own and His Father’s authority . . . To enable her to carry out this divine plan she makes laws, laws purely ecclesiastical, but laws that have the same binding force as the divine laws themselves For Catholics, therefore, as far as obligations are concerned there is no practical difference between God’s law and the law of the Church” (*Explanation of Catholic Morals*, 26).

Catholics Independent of the Bible

“They (Apostles) consigned to unwritten tradition many revealed truths and thus made the Church from the beginning independent of their writings” (*History of the Church of God*, B. J. Spalding, 25).

Roman Catholicism Not in the Bible

“By what right do you teach doctrines not found in the Bible?” “Because the origin of our faith is not in the Bible alone, but the Church which gives us both the written and the unwritten word” (*Question Box*, 75).

Catholics Not Required To Believe the Bible

Catholics Cannot Believe Fathers!

“The unshrinking defense of the Holy Scriptures, however, does not require that we should equally uphold all the opinions which each of the Fathers or the more recent interpreters have put forth in explaining it; for it may be that, in commenting on passages where physical matters occur, they have sometimes expressed the ideas of their own times, and thus made statements which in these days have been abandoned as incorrect” (*Great Encyclical Letters of Leo XIII*, 295).

New Testament Church Used Only Scriptures

“There was far more extensive and continuous use of Scriptures in the public service of the early Church than there is among us” (*Cath. Dic.*, 509).

Bible Reading Dangerous—Leads Men Away from Christ

“The reformation produced indeed an exaggerated individualism, which by declaring every man equally competent to find out the doctrine of the Saviour from his own private reading of the Scriptures, has led millions to the utter denial of Christ” (*Question Box*, 131). There is a similar statement from Archbishop Spalding in his book, called *Miscellanae*, 392.

Book of Esther Not Inspired, They Say

“There seems, for instance, not to be any obvious reason, as has been remarked, why the writings of Mark or Luke, even if we are sure that we have them, should be inspired any more than those of any other of the early Christian writings” (*Plain Facts*, 51).

Deny the Inspiration of the New Testament

“On the contrary we do not in any way presuppose that the books of the New Testament are inspired, but only that they are genuine, authentic documents, written by honest men” (*Question Box*, 80).

Inspiration Unproved, They Tell Us

“The Protestants start with the unproved assumption that the Bible is the inspired word of God” (*Question Box*, 66).

Catholic Love for Bible Reason for Restricting Its Use

“If occasionally she has seemed to restrict its use or its diffusion this too was through and easily comprehensible love and a particular esteem for the Bible, that the sacred book might not like a profane book be made a ground for curiosity, endless discussion, and abuses of every kind” (*Cath. Ency.*, XV, 9).

Bible Reading Is Not Necessary for Catholics

“It is not necessary for all Christians to read the Bible. Many nations without knowledge of letters, without a Bible in their own tongue, received from the Church teaching which was quite sufficient for the salvation of their souls. Indeed, if the study of the Bible had been an indispensable requisite, a great part of the human race would have been left without the means of grace till the invention of printing (1937 *Franciscan Almanac*, 114).

Catholic Latin Bible Called Jerome’s Vulgate

To make the issue more ridiculous, the Council of Trent, about 1550 declared that the then accepted “Vulgate” was “true, lawful, authentic and unquestioned” (*Cath. Dic.*, 853), but in less than forty years it had been completely re-written twice by Sixtus V and Clement VIII! But listen to the author of the Question Box:

“In declaring the Vulgate ‘authentic,’ i.e., officially guaranteed, the Council did not imply that it was in every respect an absolutely accurate rendering of the original text, but that it was free from error in faith and morals, and was substantially faithful to the original Scriptures” (p. 69).

Deliberately Mistranslate Vulgate in Purest Form Not Perfect

“That it (Vulgate) has many defects has never been denied” (*Cath. Ency.*, XV, 370).

Statements about Dishonesty

Forgeries, Fabrications, Falsehoods, Fakes and Frauds!

“Substituting of false documents and tampering with genuine ones was quite a trade in the Middle Ages” (*Cath. Ency.*, VI, 136).

The “Middle Ages,” a favorite designation of that period of history from the fifth to the sixteenth century, comprising more than a thousand years, is not used so much by Protestants, who prefer “Dark Ages” instead. Catholics admit that it was “an age of great ignorance, when criticism was neither in favor nor provided with means” (*Catholic Dictionary*, 105). *Catholic Encyclopedia* speaks of “the distorted and legendary view of the Middle Ages had of ecclesiastical antiquity” (V, 779). So we see that it was an exceedingly “dark” age.

With reference to one of the most monumental forgeries of that age, Apostolic Canons, *Catholic Dictionary* says: “A tradition (accepted because unexamined) long prevailed that

these canons were dictated by the Apostles to St. Clement of Rome, who committed them to writing. Accurate research has dispelled this notion” (pages 41, 42).

The astonishing thing is that the Catholic Church admits that she took advantage of this gross ignorance to impose on the millions of trusting men and women through the centuries, as Peter says: “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there shall be among you lying teachers, who shall bring in sects of perdition, and deny the Lord that bought them: bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their *riotousness*, through whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they by feigned words make merchandise of you. Whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their perdition slumbereth not” (2 Peter 2:1-3, Douay Version).

Forgeries Began before “Middle Ages”

“Writers of the fourth century were prone to describe many practices (i.e., The Lenton Fast of Forty Days) as apostolic institutions which certainly had no claim to be so regarded” (*Cath. Ency.*, III, 484).

“One is forced to admit that the gradual corruption of Christianity began very early” (*Cath. Ency.*, XII, 414).

The Extent of Catholic Forgeries

Forgery Quite a Trade. To What Extent? [Catholics own words – references available]

“Quite a Trade”

“So often met with”

“Many writings”

“A great Many”

“Prolific in forgeries”

“Rife with fabrications”

“A large number of forgeries”

“Describe many practices as apostolic institutions”

“Alleged instances from earlier times”

Who Perpetrated These Forgeries?

Popes	Fathers
Councils	Monks
Cardinals	Doctors
Bishops	

Forgery “Was Quite a Trade in the Middle Ages”

Catholic Encyclopedia speaking of these matters says: “Substituting of false documents and tampering with genuine ones was quite a trade in the Middle Ages” (VI, 136).

Actual Century of Forgeries [References available] **Some Catholic Forgeries by Centuries**

Century

- 2 Epistle of Barnabas. In Codex Sinaiticus (4th Cen.)
- 2 Shepherd of Hermas. Sinaiticus-Mid. Ages–Penance
- 2 Didache “embodies” Apostolic Constitutions
- 3 Didaskalia Apostolorum “earliest attempt-Corpus Juris”
- 4 Apostles Creed “unhistorical” “legend” “ex Cathedra”
- 4 Liberian Catalogue ends with Liberius
- 4 Clementine Recognitions – 20 books Summa 7 times, “forms”
- 4 Clementine Liturgies
- 4 Apostolic Church Ordinances
- 4 Egyptian Church Ordinances
- 5 Acts of the Martyrs – 12 books
- Lives of Saints 64 Volumes
- Lives of Saints began Acts of Martyrs
- 5 Apostolic Canons
- 5 Apostolic Constitutions – “embodies” Didache
- 5 Dionysius the Areopagite
- 5 Antiochene Liturgy
- 5 Canons of Hippolytus
- 6 Symmachian Forgeries
- 7 Augustine – 3 forged books:
 - De Condition Cordis
 - De Penitentia
 - Hypognosticon
 (These forgeries cited many times by Thomas)
- 8 Liber Pontificalis “Took Over” – Liberian-Catalogue – Used Clementine Recog.
- 9 Donation of Constantine
- 9 False Decretals of Isadore. Took over former forgeries, reforging them
- 10 Deed of Gift to Sylvester II
- 12 Apoc. Acts of Apostles; Acts of Peter and Paul
- 13 Prayer of Manasses – Quoted from Latin Bible by St. Thomas Aquinas
- 14 (?) Bonaventure’s Writings – several works forgeries
- 14 Forged Decree of Council of Vienna, 13 Works of Duns Scotus
- 14 Works of Thomas
- 15 Alan DeRupe – Rosary a Forgery – St. Dominic
- 16 Clement VIII & “St.” Bellarmine’s Lie in Preface to Vulgate Bible.
 - Popess Joan – Falsifying history
- 18 Irenaeus (Pfaff)
- 10(?) Leo XIII Approves De Rupe’s Forgery
- 20 Liguori – Glories of Mary (New edition a Forgery!)
- 20 Assumption of the Virgin – based on Dionysius, a forgery

The Shepherd of Hermas

The acknowledgement that this is a forgery is expressed as follows: “The writer wished to be thought to belong to the preceding generation” (*Cath. Ency.*, VII, 270). This forgery, together with the Epistle of Barnabas was appended to the Codex Sinaiticus (*Cath. Ency.*, VII, 268; II, 299, 300). This Codex was found by Tischendorf at the Catholic monastery at Mount Sinai in the nineteenth century. This shows that Catholic Monks thought these forgeries belonged to the Bible. These two works are associated with the doctrine of *penance*, (*Cath. Ency.*, VII, 258-270), and are used as proof of this unscriptural doctrine. The writer claims the guidance of the Holy S. (*Cath. Ency.*, VII, 339).

Easter and Trisagion Based on Hermas

“No doubt, even in the early Church the ‘Shepherd’ of Hermas had for a time quasi-canonical authority. The visions of St. Perpetua promoted the belief in purgatorial pain; the origin of the Trisagion was attributed to private revelation . . . An early pope (Pius I) was led to institute the celebration of Easter on Sunday by the revelations of Hermas” (*Cath. Dic.*, 940). So a pope accepted a forgery and based “Catholic law” upon it!

Clementine Recognitions – 20 Books

Catholic Encyclopedia says that “they were very popular in the Middle Ages.” Though they are now admitted, since the sixteenth century, to have been a huge forgery, the “infallible Church” and the “infallible popes” used them continually, and still do! Like most of these forgeries they were re-forged, occasionally, to bring them up to date, so *Catholic Encyclopedia* speaks of “the earliest form of the Clementines” (*Cath. Ency.*, IV, 42), and again, “the date of the original is therefore fixed as after Nicaea, 325, probably c. 330 that of H may be anywhere in the second half of the fourth century” (*Cath. Ency.*, IV, 44).

“We must nevertheless abandon any attempt to argue from the Clementines, since the oldest parts betray themselves more and more as a product of the third century” – “he was guilty of arbitrary inventions and changes” (*Cath. Ency.*, VII, 327).

Showing this continual emending, and the use that was being made of the forgeries, we read: “A letter from Clement to James forms an epilogue to H. In it Clement relates how Peter before his death gave his last instructions and set Clement in his own chair as his successor in the See of Rome.”

“The writer knows a complete system of ecclesiastical organization. Peter sets a bishop over each city, with priests and deacons under him; the office of bishop is well defined” (*Cath. Ency.*, IV, 41).

Though they all now admit that no such an arrangement prevailed in Apostolic times, and, for a few hundred years afterwards, this forgery is still the only foundation for the ecclesiastical system of Catholicism. The reason for such forgeries was to mislead the world into accepting the Catholic hierarchy! This has ever been the conduct of Rome.

To show how it is necessary for them to be constantly re-forging these forgeries we learn that the earlier editions these works made James and not Peter head of the Church!!! (*Cath. Ency.*, IV, 14-44).

Forgeries are “often met with” in Catholic writings, according to Outline of Dogmatic Theology, II, 564. “Many writings have been falsely attributed to Pope St. Clement I” (*Cath. Ency.*, IV, 14).

Reinforcing their statement that these books were “very popular in the Middle Ages” (*Cath. Ency.*, IV, 39), let me say that “St.” Thomas Aquinas, reputed to be their greatest teacher, even today, quotes seven times from these forgeries, and they are just as useful to the hierarchy today as in the thirteenth century!

Clementine Liturgies

“The writers of the fourth century were prone to describe many practices as apostolic institutions which certainly had no claim to be so regarded” (*Cath. Ency.*, III, 484).

Errors In Catholic “Tradition” – Must Be Doctored! Tradition Obscure and Inaccurate!

“When the Church studies the ancient monuments of her faith she casts over the past the reflection of her living and present thought and by some sympathy of the truth, today with that of yesterday she succeeds in recognizing through the obscurities and inaccuracies of ancient formulas and portion of tradition truth, even though they are mixed with error” (*Cath. Ency.*, XV, 10). When she wants to display her traditions she invents them!

Catholic Doctrine Erroneous

“And history shows only too plainly that the Church in their sense of the term, has varied in its doctrine, taught dogmas at various times and at various places at the same time, inconsistent with each other, and therefore to a considerable extent erroneous” (*Plain Facts*, 34).

Catholicism Assimilates Paganism

“Church assimilates and sanctifies Roman Civilization – From its foundations the Church had gradually absorbed the best of the life, the organization, the institutions, the laws, the learning and whatever else of good and worthy there was in the Roman Empire. What the Church thus took to herself she transformed and sanctified so that, though Roman in its source, it was Christian in its form, influence, and tendencies. To the treasure of ancient civilization the Church joined the great and luminous truths of God’s revelation. Thus doubly armed with the great legislative and intellectual acquirements of antiquity and the practical and saintly precepts of Christianity, the Church began to build up from Teutonic and Roman elements the most perfect nations and the grandest civilization that the world has ever known. So numerous were the difficulties of this formidable task that any other institution save God’s Church must have lost courage and despaired.” (*History of the Church of God*, B. J. Spalding, 379).

It is easy to see that an institution modeled after the Roman Empire in its laws and governmental machinery, and which is a crazy-quilt patchwork of paganism in its doctrine and beliefs, would have little use for the Bible!

Catholics Adopt “Buddha Legend” (Cath. Ency., IX, 743). Apostolic Canons.

“Even though it must be admitted that the popes benefitted by the forgeries, their good faith is beyond question” (*Cath. Ency.*, V, 778)!

Is this not strange reasoning for a church which claims infallibility? Just suppose we try to determine who might have been the authors of these forgeries, would not those who profited by them have been the most probable culprits? Whichever way we look at it, it reflects disastrously on the Roman Catholic Church. If the popes were the authors or perpetrators, it destroys, at one blow, all their claim to holiness and even honesty, and if they used them for centuries in “good faith,” it demolishes their claim to inerrancy.

Monks Forged Charters for Catholics!

It is well to remember another admission: “Substituting of false documents and tampering with genuine one was quite a trade in the middle ages” (*Cath. Ency.*, VI, 136), and we will be prepared to understand the full import of the following statement: “The monks had to manufacture charters, utterly false as to form, but true as to substance, or they would have been ousted from their possessions” (*Cath. Dic.*, 338).

Legend – Myth – Forgery!

“Constantine’s gift formed the historical nucleus, which the Sylvester Legend later, surrounded with that network of myth, that gave rise to the forged document known as the ‘Donation of Constantine’” (XIV, 357).

Fable

“The story about Constantine’s donation of sovereign rights to the pope is a fable” (*Short History of the Catholic Church*, 82).

Donation of Constantine An “Invention”!

“In the Middle Ages it was long believed that the first Christian Emperor made a solemn ‘Edict of Donation’ conferring on Pope Sylvester I, the city of Rome, the imperial palaces there, and the provinces, places, and cities of all Italy, and the Western regions. This donation was long ago recognized as a forgery; Muratori assigns its invention to the eighth century” (*Cath. Dic.*, 772).

Pius IX makes use of these forgeries in 1870. (*Life of Leo*, XIII, 202).

Catholic Literature Needed and Still Needs Renovating! Forgery in All Departments. Catholic Tradition!

Speaking of the fifteenth century, Catholic Encyclopedia says: "There was need of a revision which is not yet complete, ranging over all that had been handed down from the Middle Ages under the style and title of the Fathers, the Councils, the Roman and other official archives. In all these departments forgery and interpolation as well as ignorance had wrought mischief on a great scale" (XII, 768).

Apocryphal Acts of Apostles; Acts of Peter and Paul. Incorporated in Breviaries, Etc.

There are numerous additional forgeries which in a way are not so important, but we find that they are often the source of Catholic "traditions" which are highly prized. It is largely conjectural as to when these first appeared. Three different apocryphal acts of the Apostles were drawn up by Catholic writers, two of which they claim were probably of "Gnostic origin, but they tell us how they were adopted by Catholics: "Hence most of the Gnostic Acts have come down to us with more or less of a Catholic purification, which, however, was in many cases so superficial as to leave unmistakable traces of their heterodox origin" (I, 610).

Immaculate Conception – Joachim and Anna – a Forgery. Forgery "Source of Various Traditions."

"St." Bernard, "St." Thomas and "St." Augustine, did not believe in the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. (*Cath. Dic.*, 428, 431). That means that they did not approve of these documents that were in common use among Catholics.

Catholic Writers Admit Relics Are Fakes

"Nevertheless it remains true that many of the more ancient relics duly exhibited for veneration in the great sanctuaries of Christendom or even at Rome itself must now be pronounced to be either certainly spurious or open to grave suspicions" (*Cath. Ency.*, XII, 737):

Imagine an "infallible," "holy" church perpetrating these thousands of frauds for centuries, and to add insult to injury, they continue to encourage the worship of these things and enrich the Catholic Church thereby, and at the same time admit them to be spurious. No wonder the Scriptures speak of them as having "their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:1, 3).

"He bows and kisses the altar praying to God to forgive his sins through the merits of the saints whose relics are there" (*Teachings of the Catholic Church*, 58).

Though they now admit these relics to be fraudulent, no one is allowed to tell the laity so! "But they should not permit the public discussion of these questions and let anyone raise doubt about the authenticity of sacred relics" (*Administrative Legislation in the New Code of Canon Law*, 158).

Mental Reservation a Convenient Doctrine

The casual reader may wonder how they can admit to so much untruth with so little apparent embarrassment. The answer is to be found in the Catholic doctrine of *Mental Reservation*. It is a general law permitting Catholics to lie, if by so doing they can further Catholicism. With them such lying is not sinful.

Catholics Accuse Christ of Lying (Mental Reservation). Do Not Choose To Tell the Truth!

“So that a false statement knowingly made to one who has not a right to the truth will not be a lie” (*Cath. Ency.*, IIIX, 471).

“However we are also under an obligation to keep secrets faithfully, and sometimes the easiest way of fulfilling that duty is to say what is false, or to tell a lie” (*Cath. Ency.*, X, 195).

“The truth we proclaim under oath is relative and not absolute” (*Explanation of Catholic Morals*, 130).

No One Believed in Papal Infallibility before 325 A.D.

“It would of course be a monstrous anachronism were we to attribute a belief in papal infallibility to Ante-Nicene Fathers” (*Catholic Dictionary*, 674).

Statements about the Pope

No “Infallible Definitions” before 5th Century

“On the other hand up to the end of the fourth century, there were practically no infallible definitions available” (*Cath. Ency.*, VI, 2).

A Fallible Man Corrects “Bulls” of “Infallible Pope”!

The Regent of the Chancery in Roman Curia is the man “who revises the Bulls that have been expedited and promulgated, and, if any error has crept in, corrects it” (*Catholic Dictionary*, 241).

Catholics Teach the “Infallible Pope” May Err!

“The Pope in himself is subject to error like other men; his infallibility comes from the Spirit of God, which on certain occasions protects him from error in faith and morals. He has no infallibility in merely historical or scientific questions. Even in matters of faith and morals he has no inspiration, and must use the same means of theological inquiry open to other men. He may err as a private doctor; nor is any immunity from error granted to books which he may write and publish. Even when he speaks with Apostolic authority he may err” (*Catholic Dictionary*, 677).

Pope Honorius Condemned by Three General Councils

“A pope is not infallible in proceedings such as those of Honorius, who contributed unintentionally to the increase of heresy” (*Question Box*, 173, 1929 edition).

“All the popes, for two-hundred years after Honorius, were sworn against him as a heretic, when they were installed (*Cath. Dictionary*, 409).

The Pope and Not the Bible the Authority in Catholic Church

“The Pope’s letter is the most weighty authority in the church” (Cardinal Gibbons, in *Faith Of Our Fathers*, 116).

Geology and Archaeology Are Vague, Conflicting and Extravagant

“Must Catholics believe that the world was created in six days? Not at all” (*Question Box*, 93-95).

Catholics Teach Out-and-Out Evolution

“Life has been evolving on this earth for a thousand million years, humanity has been struggling on its upward climb for more than a hundred thousand years” (*Religion in a Changing World*, 14, By John A. O’Brien. This book has the *Imprimatur* of Bishop John Francis Noll and is printed by Our Sunday Visitor).

Need Only a Clergyman!

If You Obey Priests Blindly You Cannot Possibly Sin!

If what He Commands Is Wrong, You Are Not To Blame!

“God deigns to make prelates his own equals” “If, then, you receive a command of one who holds the place of God, you should observe it with the same diligence as if it came from God himself” *Liguori’s Spouse of Christ*, 93). “Though a confessor should by chance make a mistake, the penitent in obeying him is secure and does not err” (*Ibid.*, 351).

“There is only one remedy for this evil (over scrupulous conscience), and that remedy is absolute and blind obedience to a prudent director. Choose one, consult him as often as you desire, but do not leave him for another. Then submit punctiliously to his direction. His conscience must be yours for the time being, and if you should err in following him, God will hold him, and not you responsible” (*Explanation of Catholic Morals*, 24).

The Bible says “If the blind lead the blind, both fall into the ditch” (Matt. 15:9).

No use for Reason in Catholic Church!

Leave Reason Like a Lantern at the Door When You Enter Catholic Church

They say of one who finally decides in favor of Catholicism, and enters the Catholic Church: “Once he does so, he has no further use for his reason. He enters the Church, an edifice illumined by the superior light of revelation and faith. He can leave reason like a lantern, at the door” (*Explanation of Catholic Morals*, 76).

Reference:

O.C. Lambert, Catholicism Against Itself, vol. 1 (O. C. Lambert, Publisher; Winfield, Alabama; 1956).
Weeks: The Historical Alternative, p. 34.

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