

Furthermore, the long-held claim that the Roman Catholic Church was the only church which never changed is not supported by church history not even Roman Catholic history. How sad to realize that this false claim influenced so many to join or to stay in this false church which actually is the product of centuries of changes. Most of these changes came as a result of yielding to heathen customs and practices which were subsequently incorporated into Roman Catholic teachings and worship. The following is a partial list of heathen, unscriptural practices which became a part of Roman Catholic dogma over a period of seventeen centuries. Some of the dates given are approximate. In many cases, these heresies were even debated for years before being given the status of required beliefs:

- 1 . Prayers for the dead 300 A.D.
2. Making the sign of the cross 300 A.D.
3. Veneration of angels & dead saints 375 A.D.
4. Use of images in worship 375 A.D.
5. The Mass as a daily celebration 394 A.D.
- 6 Beginning of the exaltation of Mary; the term, "Mother of God" applied a Council of Ephesus 431 A.D.
- 7 Extreme Unction (Last Rites) 526 A.D.
8. Doctrine of Purgatory-Gregory I 593 A.D.
9. Prayers to Mary & dead saints 600 A.D.
10. Worship of cross, images & relics 786 A.D.
- 11 Canonization of dead saints 995 A.D.
12. Celibacy of priesthood 1079 A.D.
13. The Rosary 1090 A.D.
14. Indulgences 1190 A.D.
15. Transubstantiation-Innocent III 1215 A.D.
16. Auricular Confession of sins to a priest 1215 A.D.
17. Adoration of the wafer (Host) 1220 A.D.
18. Cup forbidden to the people at communion 1414 A.D.
19. Purgatory proclaimed as a dogma 1439 A.D.
20. The doctrine of the Seven Sacraments confirmed 1439 A.D.
- 21 Tradition declared of equal authority with Bible by Council of Trent 1545 A.D.
22. Apocryphal books added to Bible 1546 A.D.
23. Immaculate Conception of Mary 1854 A.D.
24. Infallibility of the pope in matters of faith and morals, proclaimed by the Vatican Council 1870 A.D.
25. Assumption of the Virgin Mary (bodily ascension into heaven shortly after her death) 1950 A.D.
26. Mary proclaimed Mother of the Church 1965 A.D.

Although some of the preceding Roman Catholic heresies are now being questioned by many, both inside and outside the church, none have been officially repudiated and all continue to be practiced by millions of Catholics around the world. The urgent need today is for Roman Catholics; yes, and all who claim to be Christians, to examine their own beliefs and the teachings of their churches by the only sure standard-the Bible. Whatever contradicts, adds to or subtracts from the sixty-six books of the Old and the New Testaments, is error no matter how many may cling to it.