

Roman Catholicism from the Perspective of the Orthodox Christian Faith



Apologetics

ἀπολογία, "speaking in defense"

- *always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear 1 Peter 3:15*

“giving a defense through the systematic use of reason or logic”





Orthodox Church (33 AD)

Orthodox = Orthos + Doxa

The right Way to offer glory to God

The right way to worship God

The original, Correct Faith

Roman Catholic (1054 A.D.)

Catholic = “Universal”, “whole, complete, lacking nothing” – St. Ignatius of Antioch

Protestant (1517 A.D.) Speaking against perceived error in Church of Rome

“... and in

One - Christ's body is One Body

Holy- Set apart, deducted, to God

Catholic- Universal, Complete, and for all people

and

Apostolic- According to the teachings, beliefs, practices,
and Traditions of the Apostles-

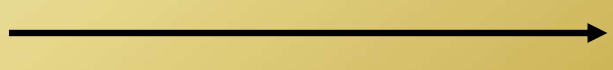


Because of Apostolic Succession, YOU have been given a touch, an anointing, a Baptism from Christ through Apostolic Succession

Church – The Ground and Pillar of the Truth

– Timothy 3:15

O.T.



Christ

33 A.D.



Apostles & Disciples

Jerusalem

Antioch

Alexandria

Rome

Constantinople



Arianism

451 A.D.

431 AD

Nestorianism
(Assyrian Church of the East)

1054 A.D.

16th Century

Protestant Ref.

Anglicanism

Jehova's Witnesses

Baptists

Modern
Confusion
and Pluralism



O.T.

Christ

33 A.D.

The Faith of the One Holy *Catholic* and Apostolic Church

Jerusalem

Antioch

Alexandria

Rome

Constantinople

451 A.D.

431 AD

Arianism

Church of Rome split from Orthodoxy

1054 A.D.

Nestorianism
(Assyrian Church of the East)

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Some Major *Similarities* with the current Church of Rome (which used to be Orthodox)

- Seven Sacraments
- Liturgies
- Veneration of the Theotokos
- Intercession of Saints
- Use of Iconography
- Holy Tradition
- Monasticism



Five Major Differences

1. Purgatory
2. Immaculate Conception of St. Mary
3. Supremacy of the Pope
4. Infallibility of the Pope
5. *Filioque*

Orthodox Rebuttals against...

1. Purgatory

Today you will be with me in Paradise

-Luke 23:43





Orthodox Rebuttals against...

2. “Immaculate Conception of St. Mary”

“my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior”

-Luke 1:47

Orthodox Rebuttals against...

3. Supremacy of the Pope

- **James** answered, saying, “Therefore **I judge** that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God

– Acts 15:19

- you are ...built on the **foundation of the apostles** and prophets...---Eph 2:19
- Could be seen as “First among **equals**”
- “**Bishop of Rome**”

Orthodox Rebuttals against...

4. Infallibility of the Pope

*Now the apostles and elders came **together** to consider this matter...it seemed good to **us**, being assembled with one accord, ... it seemed good to **the Holy Spirit**, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things..... Acts 15:6-29*



Orthodox Rebuttals against...



- 5. Filioque (=Latin, “and the son”)

Yes, we believe in the Holy Spirit the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

-Orthodox Creed

•John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom **the Father will send in My name**, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

•John 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom **I will send to you from the Father**, the Spirit of truth who **proceeds from the Father**, He will testify about Me"

Our Coptic Church believes that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father not from the Father and the Son.

This belief was agreed upon by ALL Christians in the Council of Constantinople held in 381 and attended by 150 Bishops.





The Father is the Unique Source of the Godhead.

The Son eternally begotten by the Father, and the Holy Spirit eternally proceeding from the Father, are also equally God.

To claim that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son places the Holy Spirit in a state of subordination to the Father and the Son

-H.G. Bishop Youssef (SUSCOPTS.ORG)

Other Differences with Orthodox

- Transubstantiation Vs. Change
- Celibacy of priests vs. Celibacy of Monks (Discipline)
- Venial / Mortal Sins Vs. “all unrighteousness is sin” -1John 5:17
- Forgiveness Vs. need to “make up” for the consequences of sin with God.

Additional Practical Differences

Roman Catholics allow:

- Divorce often not allowed, even for adultery
- Marriage with Non-Christians
- First Communion at the age of eight for children
- Communion sometimes given to non-Christians
- Communion wafer given in-hand, sometimes administered by non-priests
- Possible salvation of non-Christians
- Baptism by sprinkling or stream over head only