



## Grace Bible Chapel

Lord's Day, December 13, 2020

Pastor Ken's Biblical Nuggets

### **Evangelicals And Catholics Together?**

None Dare Call It Spiritual Treason, But I Will!

#### **A Crisis Brewing:**

In 1995, a crisis developed between evangelicals and Catholics. Some evangelicals believe their brethren should be converting Catholics, not collaborating with them. The result was an open appeal for Christians to end fraternal conflicts which “give aid and comfort to the enemies of the cause of Christ.” The final document emerged from a two year discussion designed to address tensions in Latin America where Catholics and evangelicals missionaries have been engaged in open conflict.

#### **Evangelicals And Catholics:**

As a result of the world wide tension between Catholics and Evangelicals, Chuck Colson (1931-2012) wrote alongside prominent Roman Catholic Richard John Neuhaus “Evangelicals and Catholics Together.” Chuck Colson was the founder of the Prison Life Fellowship and the Angel Tree Project. The evangelical signers of “ECT” included Chuck Colson, J. I. Packer (1926 – 2020), Pat Robertson founder of the 700 Club, and Bill Bright (1921 – 2003), the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, and author of the Four Spiritual Laws.

#### **John Ankerberg:**

John Ankerberg is an American Christian TV host and speaker. He is an ordained Baptist minister and has authored or coauthored more than 150 books and study guides. He is the producer and host of the internationally televised weekly program – The John Ankerberg Show. The TV program airs on Daystar, and is seen internationally in ten languages with 4.5 billion potential viewers around the world. John Ankerberg was a noted spiritual influence in the life of former Arkansas governor and Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee. In 2018, Ankerberg met with a delegation of officials regarding international Christian persecution with Vice President Mike Pence.

#### **A Biblical Rebuttal:**

John Ankerberg, D. James Kennedy (1930 – 2007), John McArthur, and R.C. Sproul (1939 – 2017), have made it clear that this “Evangelicals and Catholics Together” is nothing short of “selling out” the Gospel to Rome. Ankerberg has videotaped and broadcast on cable a series of discussions with McArthur and Sproul during which they claim that Catholics are cursed under their own anathema, since the Council of Trent, for having falsified the Gospel. In essence, Catholicism is another gospel (Gal. 1:8-9).

## **Fawning Over The Pope:**

Pope Francis is shown at the Vatican in June 2014 on the internet with Christian leaders, even so-called Evangelicals, fawning over the pope. Francis is shown with American Charismatic leaders, including James Robison, Kenneth Copleland and John Arnott.

## **Vicar of Christ?**

The Catholic Church teaches that the title “Vicar of Jesus Christ” stems from the Holy Scripture where Jesus grants St. Peter the power of the keys to the Church. When the Roman soldier Cornelius fell at the feet of Peter, whom the Catholic Church claims to have been the first pope, Peter rebuke him by saying, “Stand up, I too am just a man” (Acts 10:25-26). The Lord Jesus indeed predict a “vicar” in the sense of a “replacement” for His physical presence here on earth. However, this “vicar of Christ” is not a priest, high priest, pastor, bishop, cardinal or pope. The only biblical “Vicar of Christ” is the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus declares, “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, will teach you all things and will remind you of all I have said to you.” Therefore, the Holy Spirit is Christ's replacement on the earth. The Holy Spirit is our Counselor, and Teacher, and will guide us into all truth (John 14:26;16:13).

## **Blasphemy?**

In claiming that the pope is the “Vicar of Christ,” the Catholic Church rejects the sufficiency of Christ's priesthood, and grants to the pope roles that Christ Himself declared would belong to the Holy Spirit. It is therefore blasphemy to ascribe to a former nightclub bouncer the title of “Vicar of Christ.” Further, consider the facts that the pope takes the title of “Vicar of Christ,” allows people to call him “Holy Father,” and accepts worship to himself. And when people bow to him or kiss his hand, he is accepting worship. The word “vicar” means “stand-in” or substitute.” Does the pope (former bar bouncer) consider himself to be a substitute Christ? Thus, to call the pope “Holy Father” is to acknowledge him as God. This is blasphemous!

## **The Sole Mediator:**

Another important difference is that the Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible is the sole mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5). Whereas Catholic doctrine teaches that Mary is also a mediator. Mary herself said: “And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour (Luke 1:47). When the servant came to Mary concerning their need of wine, she said: “What-ever He says to you do it” (John 2:5).

## **An Invitation:**

**The problem is simple. Your sins are going to be punished by God. The question is are your sins going to be punished on you in Hell forever, or on the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross? If you prefer the latter, you need to abandon all trust in yourself, your church, your religion and rituals, repent of your sins, and receive Him into your heart as Lord and Saviour (John 3:18). He that has the Son has life, and he that has not the Son has not life (1 John 5:12).**