

This short article is inspired by a question a young Christian lady asked me quite recently. She wanted to know if a Roman Catholic will go to Heaven when he dies. To reply, I asked her if a Protestant will go to Heaven when he dies. She immediately understood what I was trying to say!

The Church which Jesus promises to build is not the visible church of any individual nation or place, but the body of all believers who have received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. In other words, those who are born again!

Now, some will obviously correct me here, saying Roman Catholics pray to dead saints, worship idols, elevate tradition above Scripture, use idolatrous objects in prayer, add works to faith, and many other unbiblical things as these.

Such an objection is absolutely correct. However, the Scriptures say God does not impute sin where there is no awareness. I myself did some of these unbiblical things mentioned above, even though I had been born again. It was only later, when I began to study the Bible, did I understand that they were wrong. The Bible calls this sanctification!

Second, to the objector, I would ask if he could honestly say he had never encountered Protestants guilty of putting traditions above God's Word, or of worshipping idols, spiritually speaking.

With regards the Roman Catholic doctrine of adding works to faith, experience tells me that even here many Protestants have not fully understood what Scripture has to say on the subject! The following incident I witnessed in an Evangelical Church during my transition from Roman Catholicism to Sola Scriptura is just one example.

At the end of a Sunday Service, the Senior Pastor announced to his flock that a Korean Pastor in a Community close by asked if they could use his facilities for an upcoming event. I can't remember the exact reason for this, as the incident happened many years back. But the following details remain clear.

The Pastor was not sure if he should consent and so asked the congregation to decide by raising a hand for a yes. To my absolute alarm, no hands went up, with the exception of just two or three! Their concerns varied from the rooms and toilets being left in disorder, to the possibility of the Evening Service being delayed!