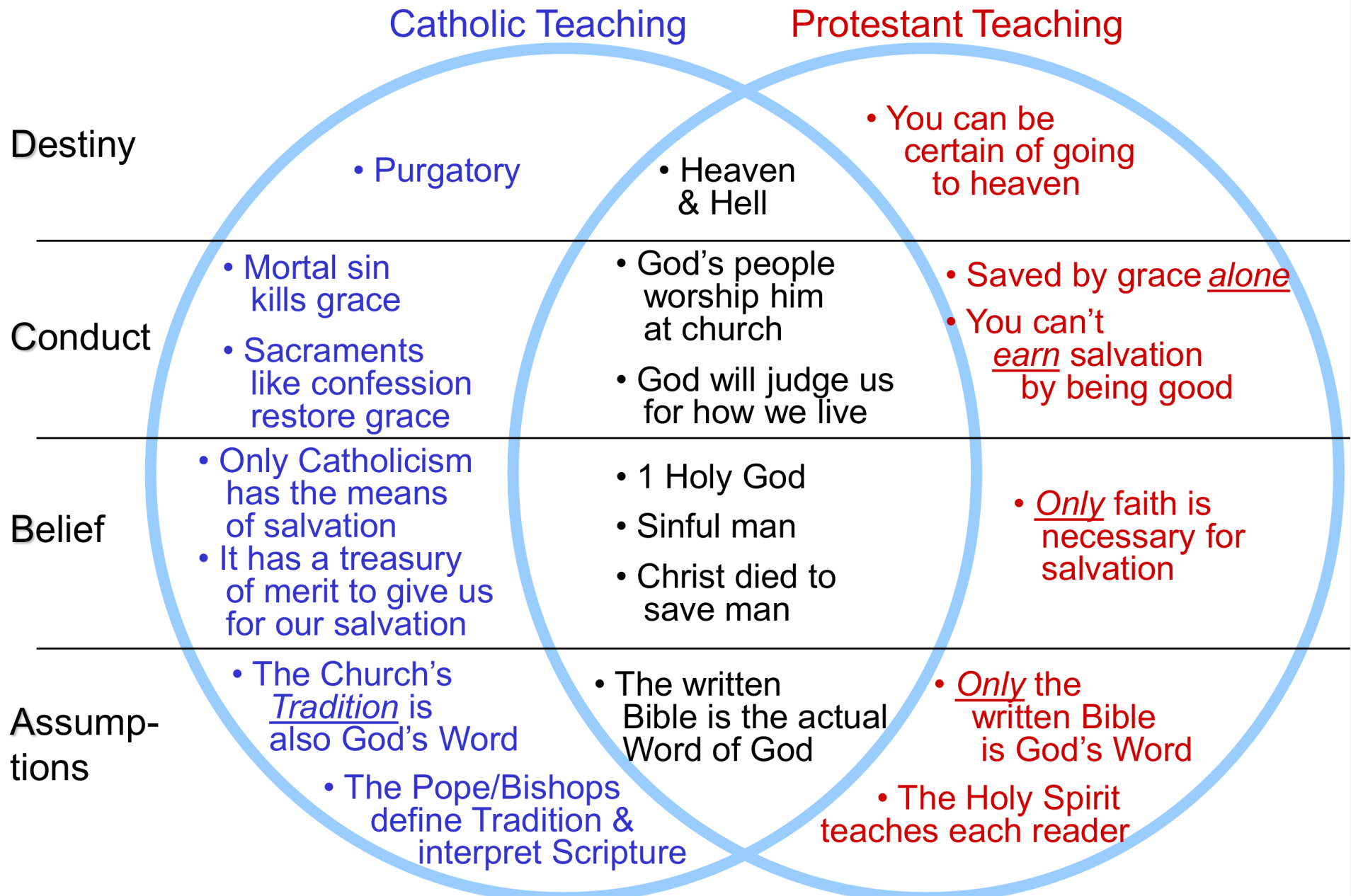


In-depth Comparison of the Catholic & Protestant Religions

Contents

1. The *Difference Diagram*, and its connection to the Catechism of the Catholic Church
 - a. Page 2. You've seen the simple Venn diagram; it is reproduced here.
 - b. Page 3. This diagram shows official Roman Catholic sources that document their beliefs, and verses from Scripture that document Protestant beliefs. From this diagram, you can look up more details if you wish.
2. USA Religious Survey by George Barna
3. An Email Subscription ("Proclaiming the Gospel") from Mike Gendron

The Difference Diagram



	Quotes from the Catechism, 1994	Anathemas from Trent, 1563	Quotes from the Bible
Destiny	1030. All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.	S25. There is a purgatory [and] the souls there detained are aided by the suffrages of the faithful.	Heb 9:27. It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.
Conduct	837. Even though incorporated into the Church, one who does not however persevere in charity is not saved.	S6C24. If anyone says that the justice received is not preserved and also not increased before God through good works, but that those works are merely the fruits and signs of justification obtained, but not the cause of its increase, let him be anathema. S7C5. If anyone says that baptism is optional, that is, not necessary for salvation, let him be anathema.	Rom 8:33. Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.
Belief	8. The Church's Magisterium...defines dogmas,...obliging the Christian people to an irrevocable adherence of faith. (*)	S6C12. If anyone says that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in divine mercy, which remits sins for Christ's sake, or that it is this confidence alone that justifies us, let him be anathema.	Rom 4:5. To the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness
Assumptions	82. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.	S4. If anyone does not accept as sacred...the 66 books of the Bible plus 12 apocryphal books, let him be anathema.	Rev 22:18. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book. If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.
Bottom Line	2092. [the sin of] presumption [is to] presume upon God's almighty power or his mercy (hoping to obtain his forgiveness without conversion and glory without merit).	S5C12. No one, moreover, so long as he lives this mortal life, ought ... presume as to state with absolute certainty that he is among the number of the predestined.	Certainty of salvation/Peace with God. Come boldly to God. Response of a grateful heart. Freely receive -- Freely give.

9. The ministry of catechesis draws ever fresh energy from the councils. The Council of Trent is a noteworthy example of this.

(*) Some RC Interpretations

Gen 1. Adam & Eve	- Not literally true
Ex 20. Second Commandment (Graven images)	- Rescinded (no longer applicable)
John 6. "Drink my blood"	- Literal
1 Cor 10. "Drink this cup"	- Figurative
Eph 2. "Gift of God"; Titus 3. "Not of works", etc.	- Ignored

USA Religious Survey by George Barna

On the next page are 2 tables extracted from a book by the reputable pollster George Barna. What these 2 tables tell me is this:

1. Left-hand Table 148. As an illustrative question demonstrating how literally Catholics and Evangelicals interpret the Scriptures. The question happens to relate to believing what Scripture teaches clearly denies that Satan is only symbolic, and not a living being. At the bottom, as circled, you can see that survey respondents that identify as Catholic are pretty mixed about this, whereas Evangelicals pretty much disagree (3% +73%). This is really not too surprising since the Catholic Church admits to their system of interpretation called 'allegorization' whereas many evangelicals hold more to a literal interpretation. In fact, some years back, Pope John Paul (?), clearly stated that the story of Adam and Eve should not be taken literally, but is really symbolic of how good and evil are in conflict. The Protestant objection is that to interpret everything as allegory leaves the Scriptures very prone to being misinterpreted by fallible human beings. [That 18% = 3% of evangelicals agree Strongly or Somewhat seems to imply that we still have some teaching to do in our ranks.]
2. Right-hand Table 149. With perhaps the most significant question in Barna's survey, the results are very telling (and sad, really). When asked if "a person is generally good, or does enough good things, they will earn a place in heaven," it's gratifying that evangelicals Disagree Strongly with that statement at a 100% level (as it should be since we believe Scripture teaches salvation by grace through faith, and not by works). What is saddest in my opinion is that only 5% of Catholics Strongly Disagree (to me, that implies this small segment of the Catholic population may be truly trusting in Christ alone, despite what their church teaches. Perhaps some of the 6% who Disagree somewhat may also be truly saved.

Previous years' surveys by Barna show almost the exact same percentages as shown here. And this really could be expected because (as the previous pages show) the Catholic church actually does teach that heaven is only attained when you become personally good enough (in this earthly life or in purgatory); they expressly do not teach that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to a believer and that it is His righteousness alone that saves you, not your own or that of Mary and other saints.

When I am pressed, I will say that I think 5-10% of Catholics may be truly saved—I do this based not only on the surveys but on my own experience. Over the years, I may have talked to about 100 Catholics and I have found about 5 to 10 who actually do trust in Christ alone.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? I think way too many Protestant leaders assume that Catholicism is a 'valid expression of the Christian faith.' I think they say this due to wishful thinking, and they haven't done their research. To me, these numbers suggest we should be careful assuming that the Catholic neighbor you're talking to is saved...find out first! Ask questions about what they believe; it may or may not be what they've been taught in their church.

TABLE 148

Do you agree or disagree that the devil, or Satan, is not a living being, but is a symbol of evil? Do you (agree/disagree) strongly or somewhat?

		N	Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree Strongly	Don't Know
Total Responding		1206	36%	23%	12%	22%	7%
Gender:							
	Male	584	33	27	13	20	6
	Female	622	38	20	11	24	8
Age:							
	18 to 28	252	37	28	14	13	8
	29 to 47	514	30	23	14	27	6
	48 to 66	291	42	22	8	23	6
	67 to 98	120	42	16	13	15	13
Married:							
	Yes	659	37	20	11	25	6
	No	547	34	27	13	18	8
Have Kids Under 18:							
	Yes	513	33	22	14	25	7
	No	687	38	24	11	20	7
Household Income:							
	Under \$25,000	382	37	23	11	21	9
	\$25,000 to \$50,000	438	32	23	14	25	6
	Over \$50,000	227	39	23	14	21	4
Region:							
	Northeast	265	40	29	8	18	5
	South	398	36	20	12	27	6
	Midwest	279	37	22	12	22	8
	West	264	30	23	19	19	10
Education:							
	High School or Less	625	37	23	13	21	6
	Some College	325	36	22	12	23	8
	College Graduate	249	32	26	11	24	7
Ethnicity:							
	White	867	36	23	12	24	5
	Black	162	42	17	14	18	8
	Hispanic	112	31	32	11	14	12
Voter Registration:							
	Not Registered	246	37	19	13	20	11
	Democrat	381	38	26	10	19	7
	Republican	270	31	19	15	30	5
	Independent	209	34	27	13	21	6
Church Type:							
	Protestant	492	34	21	12	28	6
	Catholic	313	46	27	10	14	3
Faith Perspective:							
	Evangelical	83	18	3	3	73	3
	Born Again	428	34	12	15	35	4
	Non-Christian	777	36	29	11	15	8

TABLE 149

Do you agree or disagree that if a person is generally good, or does enough good things for others during his or her life, he or she will earn a place in heaven? Do you (agree/disagree) strongly or somewhat?

		N	Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree Strongly	Don't Know
Total Responding		1206	37%	24%	12%	22%	5%
Gender:							
	Male	584	33	28	13	20	6
	Female	622	41	20	11	24	4
Age:							
	18 to 28	252	41	27	12	17	3
	29 to 47	514	36	25	11	24	4
	48 to 66	291	35	20	13	25	7
	67 to 98	120	38	23	15	18	6
Married:							
	Yes	659	34	23	13	25	4
	No	547	40	24	11	19	6
Have Kids Under 18:							
	Yes	513	35	25	14	23	4
	No	687	39	22	11	22	6
Household Income:							
	Under \$25,000	382	40	21	12	24	4
	\$25,000 to \$50,000	438	30	28	13	24	4
	Over \$50,000	227	39	21	14	18	8
Region:							
	Northeast	265	40	26	12	16	7
	South	398	36	17	11	31	4
	Midwest	279	35	30	11	21	4
	West	264	38	24	15	17	6
Education:							
	High School or Less	625	41	21	11	23	4
	Some College	325	32	29	14	20	5
	College Graduate	249	33	24	13	23	8
Ethnicity:							
	White	867	37	22	12	23	6
	Black	162	31	29	13	23	4
	Hispanic	112	48	24	6	21	0
Voter Registration:							
	Not Registered	246	40	21	10	25	4
	Democrat	381	38	26	13	18	6
	Republican	270	37	19	11	28	5
	Independent	209	32	24	15	24	5
Church Type:							
	Protestant	492	29	20	15	31	5
	Catholic	313	57	30	6	5	2
Faith Perspective:							
	Evangelical	83	0	0	0	100	0
	Born Again	428	24	18	17	38	2
	Non-Christian	777	44	27	9	13	7

An Email Subscription (“Proclaiming the Gospel”) from Mike Gendron

Mike Gendron was ordained in the Catholic Church but left it after 37 years when he became saved. He publishes a very well written monthly newsletter that I read to stay current with what’s going on in the Catholic Church.

I’ve spoken to Mike about coming to speak at our church but eventually decided against it. Mike comes across to me like the rabid ex-smoker who is a bit too contentious (for my tastes anyway). Because he is much more blunt than I’d prefer, I do not use his materials (especially as they are intended—to be given to Catholics). But...for my own education, he is very valuable to me because his emails give me data I can’t find elsewhere. If you’re interested I’d suggest you subscribe, keeping my cautions in mind, and see what you think.

(from Mike’s June 2021 email)



Rome's Rejection of the Christian Faith

It is outrageous that so many of our evangelical leaders continue to promote unity with the apostate Roman Catholic Church. Rather than identify it as a huge mission field of 1.3 billion precious souls, they embrace it as a Christian denomination made up of brothers and sisters in Christ. Tragically, their fallacious position discourages their followers from evangelizing Catholics. We must set the record straight! Catholics need to be evangelized because their religion has rejected the Christian faith.

Rome Rejects the Supremacy of God's Word

God has exalted His name and His Word above all things (Ps. 138:2). "All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). Those who reject or dismiss God's Word as their supreme authority fall into serious error and peril. Rome has done this by elevating its ungodly traditions, which have evolved over 1600 years, to be equal in authority with Scripture. Rome teaches that "Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a [single sacred deposit](#) of the Word of God."

Rome Rejects the Sufficiency of God's Son

Jesus is sufficient to save sinners completely by the offering of Himself once, for all sin, for all time (Heb. 7:25-27; 10:10; 14, 18). His blood is sufficient to purify every believer from every sin. His death is sufficient to cancel the eternal sin debt of every believer (Col. 2:14; 1 John 1:7). Rome rejects the sufficiency of Christ by continuing the work of redemption through the sacrifice of [the Mass](#), and by promoting the fable of [purgatory](#) and the sacerdotal [priesthood](#).

Rome Rejects the Singularity of God's Gospel

God's one and only Gospel offers salvation by grace apart from merit, through faith in Christ alone, apart from works, according to Scripture alone (Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Titus 3:5). Rome rejects this Gospel and offers a distorted gospel which brings condemnation on those who teach it (Gal. 1:6-9). Rome's gospel requires Catholics to receive [sacraments](#), observe the [commandments](#), partake in the [Eucharist](#), do good [works](#), and obtain [indulgences](#). Any perversion of the Gospel is ultimately the Devil's delusion, which keeps his captives in religious bondage (2 Tim. 2:24-26).

Rome Rejects the Sovereignty of God's Grace

Clearly it is the will of God, not man's will, that determines who will be born again and graciously adopted into the Father's eternal family (John 1:12-13). Yet, Rome rejects God's sovereignty by teaching it is the will of man through water baptism that determines who will be born of God. Rome says, "[Baptism](#)... makes the neophyte a new creature, an adopted son of God ... and co-heir with Him."

Rome Rejects the Security of God's Children

The promise of God's Gospel is eternal life which is upheld by the power of God (1 Pet. 1:3-5). The Lord Jesus promises to keep those He has saved (John 6:37-39). This divine gift of eternal life can never be lost or revoked (John 10:28; Rom. 11:29). Rome rejects this assurance by saying those [justified by water baptism](#) who die in [mortal sin will go to hell](#). Hopefully this article will encourage Christians to recognize the urgent need to evangelize Catholics with the supreme authority of God's Word and His glorious Gospel of grace!

Catholicism's Opposition to the Bible

Our [Rome vs. the Bible](#) Gospel tract was initially published to educate evangelicals that the Roman Catholic Church represents a neglected mission field that needs to be evangelized. Due to all the unity accords between evangelicals and Catholics, most Christians think Catholics are our brothers in Christ and do not need to be evangelized. This Gospel tract identifies 13 biblical doctrines that the apostate church of Rome opposes and rejects. It has been used effectively to set Catholics free from the bondage of religious deception.

Over 600,000 evangelicals have now signed the [Manhattan Declaration](#) that calls for unity among Orthodox, Catholics, and Evangelical Christians in defense of the unborn, the sanctity of marriage and religious liberty. While the cause is good and noble, the false unity of apostate Christians with evangelicals is strictly forbidden in Scripture (2 Cor. 6:14-18). The document states that "We act together in obedience to the one true God." Yet, Catholics have blatantly disobeyed the command of Jesus to repent and believe His Gospel. (Mark 1:15). Catholics need to be evangelized, yet this unity accord declares they already share a common faith in the Gospel of Christ.

Beware of Wolves in Shepherd's Clothing

Pastor Tom Pennington of Countryside Bible Church preached an excellent message on exposing and identifying false teachers from Romans 16:17. He gave us characteristics common among wolves in shepherd's clothing: a false source of authority that contradicts God's Word; a false Christ or a false gospel; and a lifestyle of license as opposed to personal holiness. Listen here.

Evangelizing Catholics Biblically

What is the most effective way to evangelize Roman Catholics? Mike gives seven biblical principles that you can use to communicate the truth that may set them free from the bondage of religious deception. [Listen here.](#)

Pope Francis and The Fallen Angel

Pope Francis was to be the first pontiff in history to pray with members of a syncretic sect who worship a "fallen angel" depicted as a peacock and identified with the Devil. See his prayer [here](#). The Yezedi deity is the Peacock Angel, which simultaneously embodies "both god and demon." In Yezedism, Satan, as the angelic head, is only "temporarily overthrown as a punishment, but, in time, becomes a recipient of mercy." In Yezedi mysticism, Satan is "eventually exonerated and his deed not regarded as sin in any way." [Read more.](#)

Letters

Dear Mike, Jesus is the founder of the Catholic Church. What man founded your church? John Knox? Martin Luther? John Wesley? There is only one true Church. But due to Luther's pride in thinking he knew more than Peter, the first pope, there are now over 25,000 Christian denominations. So Mike, even when we have a Judas pope, as we do now, Christ's church will prevail. As weak as this pope is (and we have had worse in the 2000+ history of the Church), he has not changed any of our dogmas. We do not have to agree with his leftist statements on climate change, capitalism etc. You need to return to the One Holy Apostolic Catholic Church where you may feast on the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. **Elizabeth, Internet**

Dear Elizabeth, You are right that there is only one true church founded by Jesus Christ. However, over the years, there have been some individuals and churches who have departed from the apostolic faith to become apostates (1 John 2:19). The true church is made up of all who are in Christ, saved and born again (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27). It is identified in Scripture, so let's examine your claim that it is the Catholic Church. Nowhere in the New Testament do you find the "one true church" doing any of the following: praying to Mary, praying to the saints, venerating Mary, submitting to a pope, relying on infallible bishops to interpret Scripture, praying for souls in purgatory, having a sacrificing priesthood, baptizing infants, receiving grace through sacraments, or passing on apostolic authority to successors of the apostles. All of these unbiblical traditions affirm the Catholic Church's departure from the authority of Scripture to become an apostate church. I urge you to come out of her and not participate in her sins of idolatry anymore. God seeks worshipers in Spirit and truth (John 4:24).

Biblical Responses to Catholic Teaching

Catholic Teaching: The Ten Commandments are obligatory... "so that all men may attain salvation through faith, Baptism and the observance of the Commandments" ([CCC, para 2068](#)).

Biblical Response: No one can attain salvation through observing the commandments because "whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all" (James 2:10). "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us" (Gal. 3:13). Salvation can only be received by faith in Christ and His imputed righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21).

Let us glorify our Lord Jesus Christ by faithfully sharing His glorious Gospel of grace!

Mike and Jane Gendron
(817) 379-5300
2829 Veranda Lane, Southlake, TX 76092
www.ProclaimingTheGospel.org