

# Understanding Roman Catholicism

A three-day seminar designed to provide an overview of Contemporary Roman Catholicism, its practices and teachings.

Friday-Sunday  
December 2,3,4, 2011  
at Sovereign Grace Baptist Church  
Dale City, VA

## Why this Seminar?

- Do you have Roman Catholic friends or family?
- Have you tried to share your faith with them, or they have with you, and you seem to be talking past each other?
- Hasn't the Roman Catholic Church changed a lot since Vatican II, and certainly since the Reformation?
- In the new spirit of **ecumenism** and cooperation, especially in the culture wars, why should Catholics and Protestants remain so divided?

## Who should attend?

- Christian believers who may not know what the Catholic Church teaches, or what Catholics believe and practice, and those who want to brush up on this topic
- Faithful Catholics who seek to improve their witness to 'evangelical Protestants' by understanding our beliefs and practices, and Biblical objections to their faith
- Former Catholics who have 'given up' on religion, yet are still intellectually curious and searching for the true God.
- Truth seekers who wonder what either side could offer for their honest consideration.

*If this describes you or your friends,  
please come! AND please invite others  
who may be interested!*

## Goal of this Seminar

Learn the basics of the Catholic faith, how their current official teachings and practices compare to Biblical doctrines and teachings; be equipped to discuss similarities and differences with Catholics and former Catholics; NOT to win an argument, but to win a soul!

## **Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**

14703 Silverdale Drive, Dale City, VA 22193

For more information, go to [www.sgbcv.com](http://www.sgbcv.com)  
or call the church at 1-540-788-3613

## Seminar Sessions

*Seminar will be taught by  
John Paul (Patrick) Kuspa*

*John was born in 1946 into a Polish-American family in Detroit, Michigan, the fifth of eight children. He was raised in pre-Vatican II parochial schools until seventh grade, was an altar boy then, and a practicing Roman Catholic for his first 25 years. He left NOT for theological reasons but due to the changes in worship practices and finally difficulties in the local parish. After 22 years in the spiritual wilderness, God transformed John at age 46 into a born-again Christian (the only kind, per John 3:3). After years of enjoying a Biblical assurance of salvation, which he could not have as a Catholic, he has increasingly had a burden to study his former religion and explain to Catholics and fellow evangelicals the vitally important Biblical differences. Teaching on this topic has become his calling.*

### **Authoritative RC sources include these from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)**

- Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994)
- Rite of Christian Initiation as Adults (RCIA, 1986)
- Instruction on the Eucharist (2004)
- Mary in the Church (2003)
- Catholic Evangelization in a Ecumenical & Interreligious Society (2004)
- Manual of Indulgences (2006)

### **Representative Evangelical sources start with The Holy Bible**

- The Gospel According to Rome, John McCarthy
- Talking with Catholic Friends and Family, McCarthy
- Catholicism: East of Eden, Richard Bennet
- Roman Catholic Church at Bar of History, Webster
- Hard Questions for Good Catholics, Mike Gendron
- Quite Contrary: Apparitions of Mary, Tim Kauffman

Friday, December 2, 2011

**(7pm-9pm)**

#### **Session I: Introduction to and Overview of Roman Catholicism**

- How much do you know about Roman Catholic (RC) teachings?
- What are the core principals of RC?
- Do the differences matter much? Do they have a different Jesus?

Saturday, December 3, 2011

**(9am -10:15am)**

#### **Session II: Sources of Authority: Scripture + Tradition**

**(10:30am-12pm)**

#### **Session III: The Sacrifice of the Mass and the Holy Eucharist**

**(1pm-3pm)**

#### **Session IV: Mary as Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, and Mediatrix of All Graces**

Sunday, December 4, 2011

**(9am-10:15am)**

#### **Session V: Getting and Staying Saved through the Sacraments**

**(10:30am-12pm)**

**Sermon Message: "Not for Long"—Can a Roman Catholic become a born-again believer and remain in the Catholic Church?**

**(6pm-8pm)**

#### **Session VI: The Roman Catholic strategy of Ecumenism—'Christian Unity' through the Holy Eucharist**

*All in the community interested in this topic should attend.*

*This material is also available as a 12-week introductory course that can be provided for use by your church.*

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