

## ROMAN CATHOLIC BAGGAGE ADOPTED BY REFORMATION THEOLOGIANS

Ten false doctrines which negatively affected the Protestant churches

1. Infant baptism
2. Tithing in the Church age
3. The Apocrypha
4. Clergy / Laity discrepancy
5. Allegorical interpretation
6. Amillennialism, *a result of allegorical interpretation*
7. Communion: *transubstantiation, consubstantiation*
8. The Crucifix as an object of worship, veneration, or admiration
9. The Just War Construct, *Augustine & others*
10. Baptism only performed by the clergy

Some have been addressed, but not all.

From vast records it seems that for over a thousand years most true believers had grown up in the Roman Catholic Church. Of course there were clusters of believers which had never been part of the predominant church in various parts of the world: Africa, northern Europe, India, and so forth, but God used the unwieldy Italian institution to accomplish two significant things: 1) formulate the canon, 2) use the Church Councils to hammer out major doctrines of the Bible (*trinity, Jesus' divinity, Holy Spirit, inspiration of Scriptures, etc.*).

At the end of the Dark Ages, God moved mightily through many men of God intent on purifying and reforming the Roman Church. However, even these wonderful men brought along at least the ten tainted doctrines (*listed above*). It is laudable that the reformers got so many things right: sola Scriptura, solus Christus, sola fide, sola gratia, and sola Deo gloria. But not all of the poisonous thinking of the established Church was rejected by the Reformers.

The reformers were so correctly focused on the most important doctrines that they simply never examined these several lesser doctrines. We are ever grateful for their heroic efforts. Yet none of the above 10 doctrines were embraced by the early churches or Church Fathers for the first hundreds of years after Pentecost. And there is no reason that any of them should be upheld today.

Many local churches as well as denominations have addressed several of these biblical issues and have eliminated faulty Roman Catholic Church practices. The Protestant movement most readily discarded false doctrines such as the inclusion of the Apocrypha, infant baptism, and the crucifix or Cross as an object of worship. Slowly the belief in con- or transubstantiation of the body of Christ in the eucharist was overcome. The use of allegory as a primary tool in interpretation was eventually eliminated by most evangelical scholars; though it seems to have lingered primarily in use in understanding eschatological Scripture until the 1830s. Most Bible believing churches today admit there is no clergy similar to the OT priesthood.

Though the evangelical church in America by and large embraces the Just War construct as a practical, political precept yet there is no biblical framework which establishes parameters. It seems to be built around patriotism and the general practices of Gentile nations. Not one verse marks the Protestant doctrine of the Just War as particularly biblical or Christian. The Old Testament wars were distinctly Jehovah-istic and theocratic.