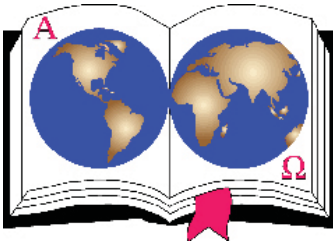




THE POPE: A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING?

November 2005



Reformation Christian Ministries

The Pope: Wolf in Sheep's Clothing?

November 2005

Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? [2 Thessalonians 2:3-5]

A frog, if thrown into a pot of boiling water, will jump out. Put in cold water and brought to a slow boil, the frog will go into a tranquil stupor like a good hot bath and smilingly allow itself to be boiled to death.

A **deception** is taking place in our Western world that brings to mind the passage above and the illustrations on the front of our newsletter. This strategy, very familiar in Europe, is now making significant strides in North America. The deception is part of a long-term strategy by “angels of light” (2 Cor. 11:13-15) bent on discipling the two nations of North America not yet in their grip while attempting to regain lost territory in Europe and expand elsewhere.

The strategy is a typical dialectical approach intending to bring opposing parties together by means of a common enemy. By a sophisticated recasting of past divisions with uniting language while not changing a thing, they give the appearance that gaps have been bridged. Meanwhile, they establish relationships through opposition to this common enemy and use those to create pseudo unity. **Illustration:** a Roman Catholic (RC) and a Protestant (P) in a foxhole being charged by Muslim terrorists. They team up at shooting, but the RC provides most of the ammunition while the P provides much of the manpower. **Actuality:** Pro-life, anti-gay, prayer in school, and other issues **Middle ground:** the Pope, Mother Teresa, Billy Graham, Pat Robertson, President George Bush. **Results:** Evangelicals & Catholics Together, World Magazine, National Assoc. of Evangelicals, Church Growth Movement. RC Church has not essentially changed but puts on a “pretty face”—the appearance of change—and so dupes Ps into increased partnership with and dependency upon them. The plan is to keep the Ps in the pot while they are slowly boiled alive (i.e. convert Ps to RC mindset & eventually the Pope). **Two big jumps:** Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau established diplomatic ties with the Vatican in 1969 followed in 1983 by evangelical President Ronald Reagan doing the same for the U.S. **The Roman Catholic Church is the only**

church in the world with diplomatic status.

Manifestations in the political side: Visits by Presidents and Prime Ministers to the Vatican praising Pope. Appointment of Supreme Court nominee, Samuel Alito, following that of John Roberts, to join Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, and Clarence Thomas. **Should Alito succeed, the five political conservatives on the U.S. Supreme Court will be committed RCs.** Forty years ago there would have been a furor over this by Ps as there was about the election of RC J. F. Kennedy to the Presidency. Not a peep now from the Ps except in favor. This is a first: that the majority of justices on the Supreme Court will be natural law RCs. RCs providing most of the legal and intellectual thinking behind much of the pro-life, anti-stem-cell research, anti-gay and gay marriage rhetoric. Leading Ps adopt RC rhetoric rather than coming up with their own.

In the media: The upsurge in top rated radio and TV news shows being manned by RCs such as Bill O'Reilly and Shawn Hannity; Alan Keyes; Joseph Sobran, William Bennett, William Buckley, and Pat Buchanan—all conservative. **Think Tanks:** Moral Majority co-founder Paul Weyrich from RC Heritage Foundation is prime consultant leading to heavy emphasis on RC presidential appointments by Bush presidencies. **Others:** RC Phyllis Schlafley's Eagle Forum closely allied to evangelical counterparts.

In France: RC church shuttles to take lead in bringing calm by negotiations with Muslims. **In Italy:** recent elections for propositions opposed by the Vatican were boycotted successfully and thus soundly defeated. **Europe:** Efforts to place the name of God in the European Union Constitution, though defeated, were seen as renewed attempt at reassertion of papal leadership in Europe. **Israel:** apologies by Pope JP II to Jews, coupled with upcoming plans for Pope to visit Israel, puts Pope in place to be power broker with Muslims and further establish his world-wide religious leadership role.

Protestant TV evangelist Pat Robertson says it this way: ...the emergence of the Court's Catholic bloc reflects the reality of social conservatism: Evangelicals supply the political energy, Catholics the intellectual heft. **Dr. Gary North observes:** But evangelicals didn't just need Catholic bodies; they needed Catholic minds to supply them with rhetoric that relied more heavily on morality than biblical quotation.

Ecclesiastical developments: P conversions to Rome; coalition-building between Ps & RCs; theological tendency to redefine justification and imputation in a way that removes more of the “divisions” between RCs & Ps; in addition to higher liturgical innovation in worship by Reformed and Presbyterians breaking down yet more differences.

Dr. Franco Maggiotto has long stated that the U.S. evangelicals have been co-opted by the RCs. With the growing bankruptcy of dispensational theology, evangelicals have flooded

Published by Reformation Christian Ministries

U.S.A.: 13950 122nd Street, Fellsmere, Florida 32948-6411

Telephone: (772) 571-8833; Fax: (772) 571-8010

E-mail: gwd@reformation.edu

Internet: <http://www.reformation.edu>

CANADA: R.R. #1, 5060 Oliver Road, Murillo, ON P0T 2G0

Telephone: (807) 473-9344; E-mail: canada@reformation.edu

Reformation Christian Ministries, an international, educational missions ministry, is under the oversight of The King's Reformed Presbyterian Church and Sharon Orthodox Presbyterian Church. RCM is eligible to receive tax-exempt donations in both the United States and Canada and is underwritten by donations from individuals and other churches. The Board of Directors for RCM in Canada is responsible for the affairs of RCM in Canada. RCM in the U.S.A. and Canada cooperate on like-minded projects. RCM cooperates by agreement with like-minded churches and denominations by assisting with mission work in specific fields and/or projects. Ecclesiastical authority for missionary ministers comes from their respective churches, not from RCM.

Fields: Albania, Italy, Russia, U.K., Congo, Zambia, and Suriname.
Director of Missions: G. W. Donnan, Minister

into the Reformed and Presbyterian churches and brought this tendency within. While statements from reformed confessions speaking of the papacy as *that man of sin* are very rare, accolades for Mother Teresa, the great work of Pope John Paul II and praise for RCs stand against abortion are very common. Increasing justifications are made as to why Ps might be able to marry RCs as long as they “believe in Christ” (which one?).

On one side, increased civility of Protestants towards RCs is a helpful and refreshing climate change which may bring more RCs to Christ. But when that civility comes at the expense of awareness of the designs of the papacy to be the religious leadership for the world (including Christian, Muslim, Jews, and others) and the development of a new style of Holy Roman Influence (i.e. Empire), we are letting our guard down. Being nice is one thing. Being duped is another.

It is important that as we ponder the happenings in our world, amongst evangelicals, and now even in our Reformation-based churches, that we are aware of what the Popes who lead this Roman Catholic Church have in mind and why such inroads are very important to them. To the right is a list of a few references to the fact that popular PJP II and even the current Benedict XVI are still *that man of sin* and why we must be more than cautious about alliances, coalitions, and collaboration. **RCs must always be viewed as a mission field rather than fellow Christians for outside of the church there is ordinarily no salvation** (Acts 2:47; Belgic Confession 28; Westminster Confession of Faith 25:2). The RC Church has long ceased being part of the true Body of Christ. “...in malice be ye children ...be not children in understanding...in understanding be men.” (1 Cor. 14:20)

“As God, he sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. As God was in the temple of old, and worshipped there, and is in and with his church now, so the antichrist here mentioned is some usurper of God’s authority in the Christian church, who claims divine honours; and to whom can this better apply than to the bishops of Rome, to whom the[se] most blasphemous titles have been given...” (Matthew Henry’s Comm. Whole Bible, 2 Thes. 2:4)

Notable Quotes about popes



Matthew 7:15

“Dominus Deus noster papa” “The Pope and God are the same, so he has all power in Heaven and earth.” (Barclay Cap. XXVII p. 218 Cities Petrus Bertanous, Pius V)

The Pope **“...became a mediator between God and man - another Christ.”** Address to Pope Pius XII in 1949 by Irish Archbishops and Bishops.

Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) wrote: **“Those whom the Pope of Rome doth separate, it is not a man that separates them but God. For the Pope holdeth place on earth, not simply of a man but of the true God.”** (1 Book of Gregory 9 Decret. c.3)

The Lateran Council addressing Pope Julius II said: **“...thou art finally another God on earth.”** (Council Edition. Colm. Agrip. 1618)

Pope Nicholas said of himself: **“I am in all and above all, so that God Himself and I, the vicar of God, hath both one consistory, ...what do you make of me but God?”** (Decret. par. Distinct 96 ch. 7 edit. Lugo 1661)

The RC New York catechism states: **“The Pope takes the place of Jesus Christ on earth.....God himself on earth.”**

“...our Lord God the Pope...” (The Gloss extravagances of Pope John XXII Cum. Inter, tit XIV Ad Callem Sexti Decretalium, Paris, 1685)

“The Pope and God are the same, so he has all power in Heaven and earth.” (Barclay Cap. XXVII p. 218 Cities Petrus Bertanous, Pius V)

Pope Nicholas I declared that **“...the Pope, who being God, cannot be judged by man.”** (Labb IX Dist.: 96 Can 7 Satis Evidentur Decret Gratian Primer Para)

Speaking the name of the Pope (a rhetorical device) Cardinal Manning said: **“I acknowledge no civil superior, I am the subject of no prince, and I claim more than this, I claim to be the supreme judge on earth and director of the consciences of men, I am the last supreme judge of what is right and wrong.”** (Sermon in the Pro Cathedral, Kensington, Tablet Oct 9, 1864)

 Geoffrey Donnan

© 2006 Reformation Christian Ministries. All Rights Reserved. This article may be reproduced, transmitted, or copied, but only in its entirety with this note included.