

The Antichrist

Many antichrists (opponents of Christ)

- 1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that **the Antichrist** is coming, even now **many antichrists** have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.
- 1 John 2:22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is **antichrist** who denies the Father and the Son.
- 1 John 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is **the spirit of the Antichrist**, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.
- 2 John 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is **a deceiver and an antichrist**.

The one Antichrist

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless **the falling away** comes first, and **the man of sin** is revealed, the son of perdition, 4**who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God** or that is worshiped, so that he **sits as God in the temple of God**, showing himself that he is God. 5Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The Marks of the Antichrist

1. "Falling Away" v.3
--Teaches falsehood, especially denies the chief article-Justification by grace through faith alone.
2. "in the temple of God" v.4
--Within the Christian church (still professes fundamental articles of the Christian faith)
3. "he exalts himself above all that is called God" (v.4)
--Won't allow himself to be judged – Papal infallibility
4. The Antichrist is not Satan, himself. He is neither a political ruler nor a manifest unbeliever. (v.9)
5. The Antichrist will remain until Judgment Day (v.8)

Categories of Churches

1. Christian-Orthodox – Those churches who teach and practice the truth of God’s Word.
i.e. Those who hold to the Book of Concord 1580
2. Christian-Heterodox – Those churches who allow falsehood to remain side-by-side along with the truth of God’s Word. Those who trust only in the merit of Christ are saved.
i.e. Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox churches, Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, etc.
3. Non-Christian Cults -Those who claim to be Christian, but are not.
They use Christian terminology in false ways and deny fundamental articles of the Christian faith. There is not enough of the truth present to save.
i.e. Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormon(Latter Day Saints), etc.
4. Non-Christian Religions– Those who teach idolatry and another god.
i.e. Present day Judaism, Muslim, Hindu, etc.

Errors of the Roman Catholic Church

1. Rejects **Justification by grace through faith alone** – They teach salvation by faith and works. Council of Trent.

The Council of Trent states:

Canon IX. If anyone says that the ungodly is justified by faith alone in such a way that he understands that nothing else is required which cooperates toward obtaining the grace of justification ... let him be anathema (damned).

Canon XIII. If anyone says that justifying faith is nothing else than trust in divine mercy, which remits sins for Christ's sake, or that it is this trust alone by which we are justified, let him be anathema (damned).

Canon XXIV. If anyone says that the received righteousness is not preserved and also not increased before God through good works but that the works are only the fruit and signs of the justification obtained, not also a cause of its increase; let him be anathema (damned).

2. Rejects Scripture alone –They teach that the sources of theology is both Scripture and Tradition(The Magisterium of the Church, whose head is the Pope).
3. The Sacrifice of the Mass – A sacrifice offered to God for the living and dead.
4. Eucharistic Procession -- https://www.lifesitenews.com/analysis/massive-nyc-eucharistic-procession-shows-that-gods-beauty-can-heal-our-broken-world/?utm_source=daily-usa-2023-10-18&utm_medium=email
- 5.
6. Transubstantiation – the bread and wine cease to exist, and are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ.
7. Refuse Marriage for Priests
8. Papal infallibility – The First Vatican Council in 1870 declared that when “the Roman Pontiff speaks *ex cathedra*, (in the discharge of his office as shepherd and teacher of all Christians, and by virtue of his supreme apostolic authority) he is preserved from the possibility of error.
9. Papal rulership over all civil authorities (After 1964 the Papal triple tiera was no longer used by popes. "Receive the tiara adorned with three crowns and know that thou art father of

princes and kings, ruler of the world, vicar on earth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever")

10. Assumption of Mary into Heaven without dying – Declared in 1950, by Pope Pius XII's *Munificentissimus Deus*. Included are these words, “Hence if anyone, which God forbid, should dare willfully to deny or to call into doubt that which we have defined, let him know that he has fallen away completely from the divine and Catholic Faith.”
11. Prayers and seeking the help of the Saints
12. Treasury of the Saints (the prayers and good works of the saints which can be offered to others to remove sins)
13. The Blessed Virgin Mary is “Mediatrice of all graces.”
The Second Vatican Council states that “the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adiutrix, and Mediatrix” (*Lumen Gentium* 62). The Council refers to Pope St. Pius X, who said that Mary is the “dispensatrix of all the gifts and is the ‘neck’ connecting the head of the mystical body to the members. But all power flows through the neck” (*Ad Diem Illum* 13).
14. Indulgences (the removal of temporal punishments for sin, which the Roman Catholic Church can give out.)
15. Penance (Satisfactions) – an act performed which will satisfy a temporal debt of sin
16. Purgatory – A place which those who have died in grace must suffer off their venial sins.
17. Apochrypha is declared to be Scripture (Council of Trent, 1546)

Matthew 7:15-27 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16“You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17“Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18““A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19““Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20““Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

21““Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22““Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

23““And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

24““Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25““and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26““But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27““and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 **Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?** 15And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will dwell in them And walk among them.

I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”

17Therefore

“Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord.

Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.”

18 “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty.”

7:1Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Titus 3:1-11 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. 3For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

9But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. 10**Reject a divisive man** after the first and second admonition, 11knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed.**