

Two main differences between the Roman Catholic Church and the Evangelical Church

Evangelical Followers of Jesus Christ and Roman Catholics have many things in common, such as the belief in Trinity, the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the sinfulness of man and humanity and being hopelessly lost without the work of Jesus on the cross. However, the two main differences below are of such importance that they need to be considered issues of eternal life and death. Who do you think is right and why?

Difference	Evangelical Church	Roman Catholic Church
Source of Authority 	<p>The Bible is the only source for faith and practice:</p> <p><i>Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.</i> (2 Timothy 3:16-17)</p> <p><i>Jesus: “You are hypocrites, just as he (Isaiah) wrote: ‘These people, says God, honour me with their words, but their heart is really far away from me. It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!’ “You put aside God’s command and obey human teachings.”</i> (Mark 7:6-8)</p> <p>Although tradition is important as a support (like the back of a chair), the Evangelical Church stands only the authority of the Bible.</p>	<p>The Bible is "a" source of divine truth but not "the" only source. Besides the sacred Scripture, sacred tradition and the infallibility of the Church are two other sources of divine truth (despite Jesus' warning not to do that in Mark 7:6-8, for text see left box). Like a three-legged stool, the church does not stand if one is missing: </p> <p><i>"As a result the Church, to whom the transmission and interpretation of Revelation is entrusted, 'does not derive the certainty about all revealed truth from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honoured with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.'"</i> ("Catechism of the Catholic Church", Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994, #82. Unless otherwise stated, all other quotations are taken from the same Catechism)</p> <p><i>"Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God."</i> (#97)</p> <p>The pope has infallibility when, <i>"as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful - who confirms his brethren in the faith - he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals . . ."</i> The infallibility promised to the church is also present in the body of bishops when, <i>"together with Peter's successor, they exercise the supreme Magisterium, above all in an Ecumenical Council."</i> (#891)</p> <p>Example: <i>"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."</i> (#1030)</p> <p><i>"Then they (those whose love for God is not perfect in this life) must go to purgatory where they will have to suffer much more intensely than they would have if they had accepted the sufferings of earth."</i> (Baltimore Catechism, p.91)</p> <p>Contrary to that, the Scriptures state that those who have repented and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, at the moment of their death, go directly into the presence of the Lord. (Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8)</p>
Salvation	<p>Through faith in Christ alone. Good works are the result of salvation, not the means of it.</p> <p><i>"Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish!"</i> (Eph 2:8-9, John 14:6, Titus 3:5, Romans 4:5)</p>	<p>Through faith in Christ and receiving the sacraments (=religious rituals regarded as imparting divine grace)</p> <p><i>"The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation."</i> (#1129)</p> <p><i>"Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament. The Church does not know of any means other than baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude... God has bound salvation to the sacrament of baptism, but He Himself is not bound by His sacraments."</i> (#1257)</p> <p>Besides baptism, there are the sacraments of Eucharist, Confirmation, Confession, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, Ordination (britannica.com/list/the-seven-sacraments-of-the-roman-catholic-church)</p>