

The Saints

Beatification is a legal process in the Roman Catholic Church whereby a departed and alleged servant of God" is adjudged worthy of a public worship in a particular place. Such beatified persons, called "blessed," gain recognition only in particular churches, dioceses, or regions, and are distinguished iconographically by a simple circular diadem.

Beatification is the declaration by a decree of the pope that a deceased person is among the blessed in heaven and deserved religious honor. A beatified person is entitled* blessed. Beatification is a prelude to canonization into sainthood. In the ancient and medieval church such cults sprang up locally and often spontaneously. Since the seventeenth century the Roman See, specifically the Congregation of Rites, has claimed control of the process.

Canonization is a ritualistic mass where the pope formally declared and officiated dead people into the official list of saints of the Catholic Church. The canonization of dead people was pioneered by Pope John XV in A.D. 995.

Canonization is the admission of one of its members to the Calendar of Saints. The evidence of the candidate's exceptional piety is contested before the Congregation for the Causes of Saints by the Promoter Fidei, popularly known as the devil's advocate. Papal ratification of a favorable verdict results in beatification, and full sainthood (conferred in St Peter's basilica, the Vatican) follows after further proof.

Under a system laid down mainly in the 17th century, the process of investigation was seldom completed in less than 50 years, although in the case of a martyr it took less time. In some cases, it took only about several years because of the subject's popularity.

Since 1969 the gathering of the proof of the candidate's virtues has been left to the bishop of the birthplace, and, while miracles being difficult to validate, stress is placed on extraordinary 'favors' or 'graces' that can be proved or attested by serious investigation that is supported by fabrication of evidences. Many recent Catholic saints have come from the Third World, where the expansion of the Catholic Church is most rapid and where canonization is nothing but a political tool.

It is ridiculous that legendary who have been dead for hundreds of years were declared blessed and canonized as saints by a decree of the Pope, and that is more than 320 years after their death. The beatified receive only local recognition, while saints are venerated throughout the Catholic Church.

The cult of the beatified is only permitted, while that of the saints is mandated. Saints alone become patrons of churches and are portrayed with the nimbus. However, both beatification and canonization are political decisions by the church that the person is assumed reigns in glory, is worthy of veneration and imitation, and is able to intercede for the faithful.

Sainthood is not an attainment but rather a state, a condition into which God in grace calls men. It is a spiritual positional status in Christ. Positional sanctification is the state that that has been predetermined by God for all regenerated believers into which He calls them and into which they begin their Christian course and pursue it. This is the only real process of making a person a saint.

Genuine sainthood has several characteristics that cannot be duplicated or imitated by men. Sainthood is a status or state imputed by God to every believer at the moment of salvation apart from human intervention and manipulation.

A sinner has become a saint by the grace of God by receiving the imputed righteousness of God. The sainthood of a believer is an act of God toward those who believe and accept the free gift of salvation. The justification of a person is completely the work of God through the redemption that Christ earned for the entire human race.

By the grace of God, a sinner becomes a saint, not by human power or authority but by the completed work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. At the moment of salvation, the righteousness of Christ is imputed to man and the sin of man retroactively imputed to Christ. God can accept only the standard of His own perfection and righteousness. He accepts any person who has His righteousness. God accepts us on the basis of the righteousness that He has imputed on believers.

God alone can convert a sinner into a saint. All person born into this world are sinners (Romans 3:23) with the only exception of the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:15). No human decree or ritual can duplicate the work of God. The genuine saints are ordained by God while still alive on earth not hundreds of years after their death. No amount of religious rituals, sacrifices, donations or decree by the Pope can make a person a saint in the eyes of God.

A canonized person is assumed reigning in glory and considered worthy of veneration, must be imitated and is able to intercede for the living. Such claims are contradiction of biblical truth. No person has the authority to change or improve the status of a dead person in heaven or hell.

The statuses of the dead people whether in hell or heaven are not subject for demotion or improvement. The volition to believe and receive the free gift of salvation, or the desire to live according to the plan and purpose of God is exercised only during man's lifetime. After physical death, there is nothing we can do to change it.

The Lord Jesus Christ did not beatify or canonize anybody into sainthood. No apostle or disciple of the Lord Jesus beatified or canonized anybody into saint hood. The saints of the Bible were never beatified or canonized. There is no command or instruction in the Bible concerning these heretical rituals of beatification or canonization.

The beatification or canonization of dead people is an old political gimmick and financial strategy of the Catholic Church to force the nation into total submission. The Pope is a political strategist who knows how to manipulate the affairs of a nation by providing them their own saints who actually done nothing for them. A person with old sinful nature all throughout his life on earth has no power or authority to ordain another sinner into sainthood. All men are sinners (Rom. 3:23) with the exemption of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The "saints" who have been beatified and canonized by the authority of man, recognized and adjudged as saints in the eyes of men, respected, honored and worshiped by men but are suffering in hell. Nobody will go to heaven because he lived a righteous life and had followed his religious requirements. Nobody will go to hell because he has lived a sinful life.

People will go to hell because they rejected the free gift of salvation which Christ earned for all men. People will go to heaven because Christ earned the merits for them (Eph. 2:8-9) not because they have done a series of human good works.

Even though Catholics considered the process of canonization as infallible papal act the canonized saints are not worthy of any veneration or adoration. They are not able to intercede for anybody because the dead cannot pray for the living. No person has the authority to mandate the veneration of another person decreed as a saint people blindly accepted the man-made saints.

Any person can become a saint by the grace and power of God by simply accepting the free gift of salvation in Christ. There is no need for beatification or canonization which is nothing but deception. The veneration or any act of adoration for a saint is idolatry. The man-made saints are just satanic fronts, people are not actually praying to the saints but to Satan (1 Corinthians 10:19-20).

These saints are actually demons which were provided with "Christian names" to deceive the naive and ignorant of Bible doctrine.

The Bible called the living regenerated Christians as the genuine saints (hagios) meaning separated from sin and consecrated to God (1 Cor. 1:2, 2 Cor. 1:2, Eph. 1:1, Gal. 1:1, Phil. 1:1)

Roman Catholic Church doctrine supports intercessory prayer to saints. Intercessory prayer to saints also plays an important role in the Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches. Also some Anglo-Catholics believe in saintly intercession. They may point to such Scriptural passages as Revelation 5:8, 8:3-4, which depict heavenly beings offering the prayers of mortals before God, and in addition misapplication of James 5:16 where all those in heaven can be presumed to be living righteously, which states the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

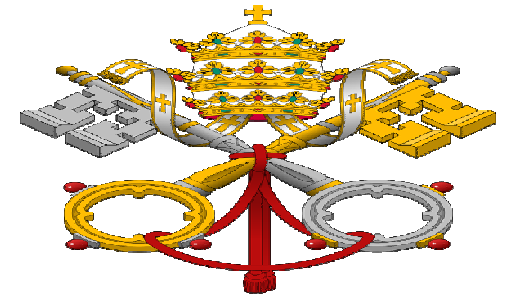
Intercessory prayer to saintly persons who have not yet been canonized is also practiced, and evidence of miracles produced as a result of such prayer is very commonly produced during the formal process of canonization.

Intercessions of the saints are to be rejected for following reasons:

- The Lord Jesus Christ is the sole Mediator between God and man.
- The Bible prohibited praying to the dead people.
- Man-made saints are in hell and cannot pray for the living beings.
- There are no examples in the Bible of living human beings praying to dead humans.

The Scripture did not give power and authority to anyone to declare a dead person as venerable, blessed and finally a saint. Venerable is the title given to a deceased person recognized formally by the pope as having lived heroic virtues. To be beatified and recognized as Blessed, one miracle acquired through the candidate's intercession is required in addition to recognition of heroic virtue or martyrdom. Canonization, or sainthood, requires a second miracle after beatification, though a pope may waive these requirements.

No matter how rigorous and details the process of making a saint may involve is not important since it is not Biblical and everything depends on hearsay, rumors, testimonies that are fabricated since that involve people who were dead for hundreds of years.



Saints

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