

Roman Catholic IDOLATRY

	Biblical Identification of Idolatry	Examples of Idolatry within Roman Catholicism
<p><u>Making Graven Images</u></p>	<p>"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God".</p> <p>Exodus 20:4-5.</p>	<p>The amount of statues and images of Mary and other Saints are too countless to number within the Roman Catholic Churches around the world.</p>
<p><u>Statues and Images in the House of God</u></p>	<p>"And he caused his children to pass through the fire...he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever".</p> <p>2 Chronicles 33:6-7</p>	<p>Roman Catholic Churches are full of statues and images of all sorts in what they call the house of God. The most prominent images are those of Mary.</p>
<p><u>Worshiping Statues and Images</u></p>	<p>"And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven."</p> <p>Deuteronomy 4:19</p> <p>"And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it".</p> <p>Isaiah 44:17</p>	<p>"Having entered deeply into the history of salvation, Mary, in a way, unites in her person and re-echoes the most important doctrines of the faith: and when she is the subject of preaching and worship she prompts the faithful to come to her Son".</p> <p>LUMEN GENTIUM (Vatican Council II), Chapter VIII - The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God in the Mystery of Christ and the Church, section III - The Blessed Virgin and the Church, p a r 6 5 , a t https://www.ewtn.com/library/councils/v2church.htm (accessed 8-14-16).</p>

<p><u>Altars Made to Idols</u></p>	<p>"And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD, and in Jerusalem, and cast them out of the city." 2 Chronicles 33:15</p>	<p>"From the beginning of Christianity special veneration was paid to the Mother of God, which in the language of theology is called hyperdulia, to distinguish the honour rendered to her from that given to the other saints. It is not strange, therefore, that after the main or principal altar, the most prominent is that dedicated in a special manner to the Mother of God; and to indicate this specific preference, this altar is usually placed in the most prominent position in the church, i.e. at the right (gospel) side of the main altar. In general it signifies any altar of which the Blessed Virgin is the titular." Catholic Encyclopedia, under Altar of Our Lady, at http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01355b.htm (accessed 8-18-16).</p>
<p><u>Bowing Down to Statues and Images</u></p>	<p>"Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 26:1</p>	<p>Images of Mary and other saints are elevated in Catholic Feasts and Churches. People often bow down to these statues of Mary.</p>
<p><u>Kissing Statues and Images</u></p>	<p>"And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves." Hosea 13:2</p>	<p>Roman Catholics not only bow to statues of Mary and other Saints, but also will ceremoniously kiss the statue's feet.</p>

<p><u>Praying to Statues and Images</u></p>	<p>“And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god....Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save.”</p> <p>Isaiah 44:17, 45:20</p>	<p>"Beginning with Mary's unique cooperation with the working of the Holy Spirit, the Churches developed their prayer to the holy Mother of God, centering it on the person of Christ manifested in his mysteries". Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 2675, at http://www.vatican.va/archive/cc_c_css/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a2.htm (accessed 8-14-16).</p>
<p><u>Request for Deliverance</u></p>	<p>“And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.”</p> <p>Isaiah 44:17</p>	<p>"...You [Mary] conceived the living God and, by your prayers, will deliver our souls from death." Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 966, at http://www.vatican.va/archive/cc_c_css/archive/catechism/p123a9p6.htm (accessed 8-14-16).</p>
<p><u>Idols in the Heart</u></p>	<p>“Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them?”</p> <p>Ezekiel 14:3</p>	<p>"The primary and fundamental element in adoration [including veneration] is an interior act of mind and will [in the heart]...Without some measure of this interior adoration "in spirit and in truth" it is evident that any outward show of divine worship would be mere pantomime and falsehood. But equally evident is that the adoration felt within will seek outward expression....</p> <p>“The Blessed Virgin, as manifesting in a sublimer manner than any other creature the goodness of God, deserves from us a higher recognition and deeper veneration than any other of the saints; and this peculiar cultus due to her because of her unique position in the Divine economy, is designated in theology hyperdulia, that is dulia in an eminent degree." Catholic Encyclopedia, under Adoration, at http://www.newadvent.org/catechism/01151a.htm (accessed 8-14-16).</p>