

DATELINE: SUNDAY LAW

THE NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW IS COMING! IS IT CONSTITUTIONAL? IS IT BIBLICAL?

Vatican Admits Sunday is NOT the Biblical Sabbath

Vatican Pushes
For Sunday
Legislation

In Europe, the Sunday Law issue is expected to be contentious as Pope John Paul II continues to press for mandatory Sunday-closing laws. Church & State, May, 1992.

Currently, the Vatican is asking the "civil authorities" to cooperate with the Church in the legislation of Sunday as the nation's day of rest.

"The civil authorities should be urged to cooperate with the church in maintaining and strengthening this public worship of God, and to support with their own authority the regulations set down by the church's pastors. For it is only in this way that the faithful will understand why it is Sunday and not the Sabbath day that we now keep holy." *Roman Catechism* (1888), emphasis supplied.

What do you think?

If "civil authorities" pass a national Sunday law, does that prove that Sunday is the Sabbath day for us?

Should the "civil authorities" pass a national Sunday law because they are persuaded by religious power?

Should individuals be penalized for worshipping on a different day other than Sunday?

Does it seem reasonable to you that the Church of Rome would push for Sunday legislation when they admit that Sunday is not the true Biblical day of rest?

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

What will happen in our nation if we force people to worship on Sunday? This #1 bestseller, *The Great Controversy*, addresses this important question, and much more.

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In a recent Catholic church newsletter, it stated, "Perhaps the boldest thing the main revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century: factually it happened in the fourth century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. 'The Day of the Lord' [Dies Dominus] was chosen not from any doctrine noted in the Scriptures, but from the Church's sense of its own power.... People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become [Seventh-day] Adventists, and keep Saturday holy." *Sancti Catholice Church News*, Alpena, Michigan, May 21, 1992.

NO SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT

"Sunday is a Catholic tradition and its claim to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles.... From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first." — *Catholic Pers. Systems*, Australia, August, 1990.

THE VATICAN'S MARK OF AUTHORITY

"Sunday is our mark of authority.... The church is above the Bible, and this transference of sabbath observance is proof of that fact." *The Catholic Record*, London, Ontario, September 1, 1923.

CATHOLIC CATECHISM

"Question: Which is the Sabbath day?"

"Answer: Sunday is the Sabbath."

"Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?"

"Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea (343) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." *The Councils of Catholic Doctrine*, by Peter Geiermann, 50.



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Rome's Challenge to Protestants: "Why Don't You Keep Holy the Sabbath Day?"

I am going to propose a very plain and serious question to those who follow "the Bible and the Bible only" to give their most earnest attention. It is this: "Why do you not keep holy the Sabbath Day?"

"The command of Almighty God stands clearly written in the Bible in these words: 'Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days did I do labor, and do all my work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: it is for thou shalt not do any work.' Exodus 20:8-10.

"You will answer me, perhaps, that you do keep the Sabbath; for that you abstain from all worldly business and diligently go to church, and say your prayers, and read your Bible at home every Sunday of your lives.

"But Sunday is not the Sabbath day. Sunday is the first day of the week; the Sabbath day is the seventh day of the week. Almighty God did not give a commandment that men should keep holy one day in seven; but He sinned His own day, and said distinctly: 'Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day'; and He assigned a reason for choosing this day, rather than any other—a reason which belongs only to the Jewish Sabbath, but that the Christian Sabbath

is not the Sabbath day, but that the Christian Sabbath is the first day of the week, and that the Christian Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, and that the Christian Sabbath is the day which the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep holy."

DATELINE SUNDAY LAW NEWSBRIEF

A recent news article that appeared in the *Detroit News* on July 7, 1998, reviewed the pope's new code for Sunday legislation. The *Pope* was quoted as saying that a violator should be "punished as a heretic." The following are excerpts from that article.

"In a day when computer academies are never fast enough and no one seems to have enough time for a full night's rest, Pope John Paul II is issuing a stern warning to Catholics that they should set aside Sunday for worship—not errands or their free time. 'This really is an extraordinary move,' said Jay McNally, executive director of Call to Holiness, a Metro Detroit lay group that promotes traditional Catholic teachings. 'This appears to be the strongest words the pope has issued. Period.'

"The pontiff used his weekly address Sunday from his window over St. Peter's Square to urge church members to make time to keep the Sabbath holy. And today, the Vatican is expected to issue an Apostolic letter from the pope further stressing the Third Commandment. Apostolic letters are incorporated into church rules.

"Sundays have come to be 'felt and lived only as a weekend,' John Paul lamented Sunday. 'It (should be) the weekly day in which the church celebrates the resurrection of Christ. In obedience to the Third Commandment, Sunday must be sanctified, above all, by participation in Holy Mass.'

"In his letter, the pope goes on to say a violator should be 'punished as a heretic,' said McNally, who read an unofficial English translation of the letter on a Vatican Web site.

"...Through the pope's letter is directed at Catholics, his concerns reach beyond the Vatican and into other religions."

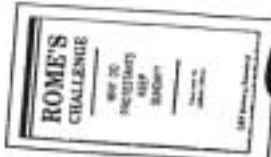
has been changed to Sunday. (Quoted in *Quoted*) 'But by whom? Who has authority to change an express commandment of Almighty God?' When God has spoken and said, 'Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day,' who shall dare to say, 'No, thou shalt work and do all manner of worldly business on the seventh day' but thou shalt keep holy the first day or its stead? This is a most important question, which I know not how you answer.

"You are a Protestant, and you profess to go by the Bible and the Bible only; and yet, in an important matter as the observance of our day in seven as the Bible, you go against the plain letter of the Bible, and put another day in the place of that day which the Bible has commanded. The command to keep holy the seventh day is one of the Ten Commandments: 10th believe that the other nine are still binding. Who gave you authority to tamper with the fourth? If you are consistent with your own principles, if you really follow the Bible, and the Bible only you ought to be able to produce some portion of the New Testament in which this fourth commandment is expressly altered."

Excerpts from "Why Don't You Keep Holy the Sabbath Day?" pages 1-13, in *The Church Times*, volume 4, published by the Roman Catholic Church in 1886.

Rome's Challenge

- Here is Rome's argument against Sunday as the Biblical day of rest.
- Yet, the Catholic church's leaders are pushing for a national Sunday law.
- How will this affect our nation spiritually?
- Everyone should read Rome's Challenge.



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