

## Was Jesus Christ Beheaded? by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

September 20th, 2013

If the Roman Catholic Church is right, Jesus Christ was decapitated on September 17, 2013 in Malaga, New Jersey. Among nine statues damaged were three five-foot-tall statues of Sacred Heart of Jesus, which was beheaded; Virgin Mary; and Our Lady of Fatima. These were located outside of St. Mary's Malaga Catholic church. Spokesperson for the Camden Diocese Peter Feuerherd said, "These are important symbols of the Catholic faith and in that way when you attack the symbols of faith you attack the faith." —CBS Philly, September 19, 2013

The fact that there is no physical description, drawing, image, or icon of Jesus Christ in Scripture or out of the Scriptures in the 1st Century doesn't seem to influence anybody. Jesus was "the fullness of the Godhead bodily" ([Colossians 2:9](#)), and God always condemned every attempt to recreate His image. To the Israelites under Moses' Law, God said:

I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God" ([Deuteronomy 5:6-9](#)).

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul preached to idolaters: "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising" ([Acts 17:29](#)). There is no physical description of God, whether in the flesh or not, although "since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse" ([Romans 1:20](#)).

Every statue, icon, painting, or other representation of Jesus Christ comes only as "shaped by art and man's devising," not God's revelation! To call a church building or statue "sacred" is purely by the authority of men, and is totally contrary to the Will of God, for Jesus said, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father" ([John 4:21](#)). It is the church of Christ, not a building, but the people, who form the "building" that is "a holy temple in the Lord" ([Ephesians 2:19-22](#)).

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That physical buildings and statues are “important symbols of the Catholic faith” is yet another proof that the “Catholic faith” and the faith in the Word of God are completely separate and contrary to each other! The Roman Catholic Church is not the church of Christ in the New Testament, and never has been true to the Word of God. The practices of the Roman Catholic Church are based upon idolatry, not the faith of Scripture, for “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” ([Romans 10:17](#)), and the Word of God condemns idolatry ([1 John 5:21](#))!

An idol means nothing to a Christian’s faith, for there is only “one God, the Father,” and “one Lord Jesus Christ,” so food sacrificed to an idol is not “sacred.” However, Paul asked: “if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?” Though such idols mean nothing to a Christian as a matter of faith, Christians are to show respect for the consciences of idol worshippers who are converted to Christ, but still haven’t elevated God to His supreme place in their hearts. This should be done without compromising their own Christian faith ([1 Corinthians 8:4-13](#)). A Christian would never offend another Christian’s conscience who has not developed to his own level of understanding, and wouldn’t think of intentionally desecrating those things that are considered religious “symbols” of others. Christians would, however, strive to teach the emptiness of such practices, as Paul did ([Acts 14:8-18](#)).

Instead of considering a statue of Jesus “holy,” why not let Jesus, Himself, be “that Holy One” ([Luke 1:35](#)), who died for you and God raised up ([Acts 3:12-16](#)), for whom you “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” ([Acts 2:38](#)), so that you may be “holy” ([Colossians 1:21-23](#))?

--- **John T Polk II**