

Christ's Church

Apostolic

- I. **Luke 10:16** “He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”
- II. **CCC 857**
 - a. Apostle means one who is sent
 - b. The Apostles were sent by Jesus and have his authority
 - c. The Apostles are the foundations of the Church
 - d. Apostles hand on the Tradition they received from Jesus
 - e. Apostles handed on the authority given to them by Jesus to other men (Apostolic Succession)
 - f. Jesus gives them his mission

Mystical Body of Christ

- I. “Why do you persecute me?”
- II. **Colossians 1:24** Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is the Church...
- III. Saint Paul must participate in Christ's afflictions
- IV. **1 Corinthians 12:12-27** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free....For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”...But God has so composed the body...that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

- V. **Galatians 3:27-28** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- VI. As Christ went, so goes the Church
- VII. **John 15:18-20** “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.”

Catholic

- I. According to the whole or universal
- II. Christ redeemed all, his Church is for all
- III. **Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Epistle to the Smyrnaeans, Ch. 8 (A.D. 110)** See that you all follow the bishop, even as Jesus Christ does the Father, and the presbytery as you would the apostles; and reverence the deacons, as being the institution of God. Let no man do anything connected with the Church without the bishop. Let that be deemed a proper Eucharist, which is either by the bishop, or by one to whom he has entrusted it. Wherever the bishop shall appear, there let the multitude also be; even as, wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.
- IV. The Church must preach the Gospel to everyone
- V. **CCC 847**
- VI. **CCC 846**
- VII. No one comes to the Father except by Jesus
- VIII. Importance of evangelization

Bride of Christ

- I. **Ephesians 5:25-27** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the Church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Holy

- I. Jesus chooses us to make us holy, not because we are holy
- II. **1 Peter 1:15-16** [A]s he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”
- III. **CCC 828**
- IV. **CCC 829**

One

- I.
- II. There is one Church built upon Peter (Rock) founded by God (Jesus Christ)
- III. **Matthew 16:18** “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”
- IV. Jesus has one Bride
- V. Jesus has one Body
- VI. Apart from the Church, Christians cannot fully function as God intends
- VII. Apart from the Church, Christians are building upon sand
- VIII. A Christian is a part of the Body and without the Body they cannot function to their fullest potential

- IX. Disunity is not God's will
- X. Unity is based upon God or it is no unity at all
- XI. Disunity blinds the world to Jesus
- XII. Separation from the Catholic Church guarantees error will be taught as truth.
- XIII. Each group separated from the Catholic Church cannot be correct in their teachings
 - I. Objections
 - I. They agree on the essentials
 - I. What are the essentials
 - II. Who decides what the essentials are?
 - III. Why are they separated if they agree on the essentials?
 - II. The Church abandoned the truth, we are trying to recover it
 - I. How do you know that?
 - II. Why won't you also fall into error?
 - III. Out of all the 'reformers' who has the truth?
 - I. If the Catholic Church does not have the truth, no one does
 - II. God is all-powerful
 - I. God built the Catholic Church
 - II. God promised not to abandon the Church he built
 - III. **Saint Cyprian, Epistle 43:5** There is one God, and one Christ, and one Church, and one chair founded by the voice of the Lord on the rock. Another altar cannot be set up, nor a new priesthood made, besides the one altar and the one priesthood. Whoever gathers elsewhere scatters.
 - I. Man building a Church is not gathering, but scattering
 - II. **CCC 865**

Closing Prayer

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou o prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.