

obvious lack of power and intention to offer the hand of fellowship to other religions, it seems clear that this is the real intention that all religions join together regardless of doctrinal integrity into one visible belief system.

### QUOTE

*“ What is referred to as Ecumenism, is Satan’s plea to the religions today to lay down your differences and unite under the banner of love! We are increasingly being called to lay down truth and walk in error and compromise in what is in every sense a manmade contrived appearance of unity.”*

Alongside of the World Council of Churches, the Roman Catholic Church has been heavily pushing ecumenism through a department called “ Pontifical Council on Ecumenism.” This is a statement from this department about Ecumenism. “ The goal of Catholic ecumenism is to restore unity to the separated traditions by bring them within the unity of the Roman Catholic Church.”

The aims of this department of the Catholic church are threefold:-

- 1) Removal of the obstacles to perfect ecclesiastical communion.
- 2) A Promoting of a single worship in the communion celebration of the Eucharist.
- 3) A re-gathering or reintegration of “all Christians” into the One and Only Church (that being the church of Rome.)”

The historical doctrine of the Catholic church declares that there is no salvation outside of the Catholic church and as the One True Church it has been given to humanity for the salvation of humanity. Yet throughout its history, even confirmed recently, the Catholic church holds onto doctrines that are heretical and can be enforced against people by capital punishment. Some of the doctrines that this promoter of a united church holds:-

- A) Roman Catholic church is the one true church. B) Mary is the Mother of the church. C) Papal infallibility D) Prayers on behalf of the dead. E) The veneration of angels and dead saints and the use of images. F) Exaltation of Mary as both Mother of God / God bearer G) Doctrine of Purgatory, H) Prayers offered to Mary, dead saints and angels I) Transubstantiation J) Sale of indulgences K) Seven sacraments of salvation
- (Continued overleaf)

L) Confession of sins to priests M) immaculate conception of Mary as well as Jesus. (1854) N) Priests and Bishops are the representatives of God on earth, justly therefore, they are called not only angels, but gods holding as they do the place of authority of God on earth.

(Catechism of Trent) O) That her doctrines and traditions carry equal weight as the bible in matters of faith and practice. P) That Her dogmas and doctrines although they can be clarified, enlarged or restated can never be abolished, contradicted or altered.

Recently there is a movement within the Catholic church to make Mary co-redeemer with Christ in the matter of salvation. This new doctrine has the full support of the current pope.

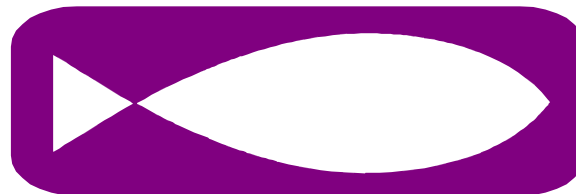
It is a simple fact that every doctrine and dogma that the Catholic church had held it still holds today. What alarmed evangelical theologians for the past 400 years remains the same, exactly as it was written and in full force in the Roman Catholic Church today.

**Quote** – By Dr. Boether (Specialist in Ecumenism and the Roman Catholic Church.)

“ The Constitution of the Catholic Church makes it abundantly clear that Rome has no intentions of revising any of her basic doctrines, but only updating her methods and techniques for more efficient administration and to present a more attractive appearance. This is designed to make it easier for the Eastern Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant Churches to return to her fold.”

What this makes clear is that the ultimate aim of the Roman Catholic Church is not union but absorption!

So the question is “ How important is the truths of God to your faith and are you willing to contend for a biblical faith in this generation?”



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## Contending for the Faith Series: Leaflet 2



## Ecumenism is it of God

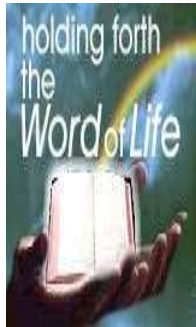
**“Even from your own number men will arise and DISTORT THE TRUTH in order to draw disciples after themselves, So be on your guard.”**  
Acts 20 v 30

On one particular street there are five churches right next to each other; each one doing it's own thing. What does this show society about how we as Christians get along with each other?  
As a result of this problem there is much talk and activity amongst Christians to set up and develop unity amongst the denominations.

The word ecumenical comes from the Greek word “*Olkoumene*,” meaning the whole inhabited earth. The goal of the ecumenical movement is “**a planned bringing together of all Christians into visible unity!**”  
Church history records 21 ecumenical councils set up to bring unity amongst God's people from 325AD to 1962AD  
The modern Ecumenical Movement began at the World Missionary Conference in

**“ In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires. These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.”**  
Jude 18 - 19

Edinburgh in 1910. Initially its goal was centred on promoting a united mission of spreading the Gospel into the known world. The World Council of Churches was formed in 1948 and alongside of the Roman Catholic church has actively promoted and supported the ecumenical movement. However the Roman Catholic Church will not become a member of the World Council of Churches



because it sees itself as the one true church in which all others need to unite. However it does send what are called “Observers” to the World Council of Churches formal meetings.

### **Problems with Visible Unity.**

Most Christians would agree that unity should be sort HOWEVER not at the expense of Truth.

One of the important realities of the Christian faith is that Jesus is the WORD of God and that Word is TRUTH. 2 Timothy 3 v 16 says that “All Scripture is given by inspiration / God breathed and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God

**Prayer of Jesus for unity is in the context of walking in TRUTH**  
John 17

**“ They are Yours, You gave them to Me, and they HAVE KEPT YOUR WORD.”** V6

**For I have given them the WORDS which You have given Me; AND THEY HAVE RECEIVED THEM.”** V8

**“ I have given them YOUR WORD; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”** v 14

**“ Sanctify them by Your truth. YOUR WORD OF TRUTH.”** v 17

**“ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified BY THE TRUTH.”** V 19

**When Jesus prayed for unity it was in the context of truth.**

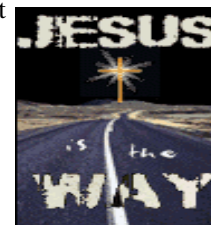
All the way through the life of Jesus, we see that our Saviour defines real love for Him as obeying what He has commanded. When He prays that His people will be one, He does so in the context of the church being United by Truth that has been entrusted to it by Himself. Where people are truly born again and hold forth the Truth of Scripture there is a spiritual unity that does not need to be forced or manipulated by man.

May be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

As Christians we must hold onto the true gospel of Jesus Christ and keep the Scripture as the final authority on matters pertaining to faith and practice. . There is no getting away from it that at the heart of the Christian faith is God's revealed truth and as God's people we are commanded by the word to contend for it .

Jude v 3 “ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you **exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith** which was once and for all delivered to the saints.”

What is expressed as a concern of the ecumenical movement is that unity is encouraged at the expense of the truth. It is a simple truth that in this movement of unity anything that has the potential to divide us must be swept under the carpet for the sake of ecumenical dialogue. What is clear within this movement is that truth and doctrine is downplayed for the sake of unity. Jude 3 – 4 is a rallying call to those who believe that the ecumenical movement has compromised the true gospel and become so wide in belief as to be heretical.



Any other unity other than that based upon Jesus and His words is a false unity that will ultimately compromise the true gospel.

**The bible teaches that God's people should separate themselves from those who are in falsehood and error.**  
Paul on many occasions warns true believers against the infiltration of the church by false teachers who will push forward their own agenda through false teaching. Paul clearly warns the church to expel these false teachers and have nothing to do with them. In fact he says even if an angel of heaven came and proclaimed a false gospel let him be accursed “ But even if we, or an angel from heaven preached any other gospel to you then what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, “ If anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.” Galatians 1 v 8 – 9

It is a sad fact that many of the churches and denominations that are pushing this unity agenda are those who are in serious error when it comes to both their beliefs and practice. As a result of this true believers should have nothing to do with those who willingly walk in biblical and doctrinal compromise and error. “ Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offences, **CONTRARY TO THE DOCTRINE** which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.” Romans 16 v 17 – 18

See also 2 Corinthians 11 v 1 – 4, Colossians 2 v 6 – 8, 2 Thessalonians 3 v 6, 1 Timothy 1 v 3 – 7, Titus 1 v 10 – 16, 2Peter 2 v 1 – 3, 2 John v 7 – 11

**Ecumenical movement has more to do with a one world unity of religion rather than the call of God for His people to unite at any cost.**

When we look at the erosion of truth in this generation, the low ebb of morality, alongside of the churches

