

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

What threatens Church unity?

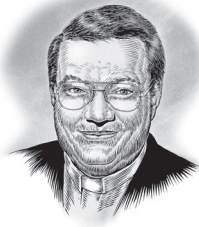
Know This...

The Church is God's earthly kingdom. Jesus prayed to His Father that she would be one as They are One. Schism, heresy, and apostasy threaten Church unity. Schism is a formal and deliberate split with the Catholic Church in opposition to the supreme governing authority of the Pope. Heresy is a deliberate, post-baptismal doubt or denial by a Catholic of any truth of the Catholic faith. Apostasy is the rejection by a baptized Christian of the Christian faith they use to profess. These acts work against Jesus' desire for a unified Church.



John: Good things often come in threes; but not always. Peter, James, and John defended Church unity. Schism, heresy, and apostasy rupture or destroy it.

James: For two thousand years, charlatans and impostors have preached a false gospel that distorts and even rejects the true Gospel. These false teachers typically seek their own glory, fame, and fortune.



John: A schismatic believes in the Gospel, but does not accept the authority of the Pope. A heretic openly ignores or rejects part of the Gospel. An apostate repudiates the entire Gospel after once accepting it.

James: A watered-down gospel will not unify the Church. Neither will insincere words and actions. We must study, learn, and practice our Catholic faith in order to recognize, reject, and expose false teaching. God will unify His Church by awakening us to His Eternal Word.

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Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father... And I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd." *Jn 10:14-16* "As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me." *Jn 17:18, 20-21*

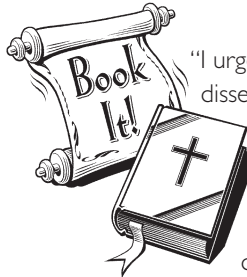
"While the hot restlessness of heretics stirs up questions about many things belonging to the Catholic faith, in order to provide a defense against these heretics we are obliged to study the points questioned more diligently, to understand them more clearly, and to preach them more forcefully; and thus the question raised by the adversary becomes the occasion of instruction." *St. Augustine*



BE ATTITUDES



"The Church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life's different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship, but to keep her on her course." *St. Boniface* "Happy the man whose words issue from the Holy Spirit and not from himself." *St. Anthony of Padua*



"I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who create dissensions and obstacles, in opposition to the teaching that you learned; avoid them. For such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites, and by fair and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the innocent." *Rom 16:17-18* "Many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh; such is the deceitful one and the antichrist. Look to yourselves that you do not lose what we worked for but may receive a full recompense. Anyone who is so 'progressive' as not to remain in the teaching of the Christ does not have God; whoever remains in the teaching has the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him in your house or even greet him; for whoever greets him shares in his evil works." *2 Jn 7-11*

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are One and worthy of all praise, honor, and glory. Unite Your scattered sheep into Your one fold, the Church. I pray that You will use me to draw others to her. I pray that You will give me sufficient grace and wisdom to reject the false gospels preached by those who seek their own power and glory. I ask this in Your Most Holy Name. Amen.

