

FAITH CHAT

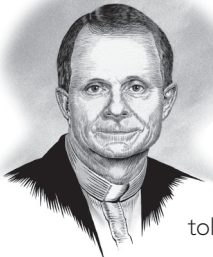
with James & John

If You Leave The Church, What Do You Lose?

Know This...

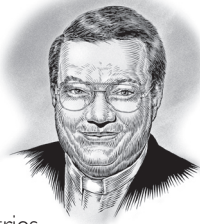
Jesus built His earthly kingdom upon the Apostles. This hierarchical Church is His Body, Bride, and visible presence on earth. She is the community of the baptized who are united in the true faith as revealed through oral and written Apostolic Tradition; who worship at the altar of the one sacrifice; who share in all the sacraments; and who acknowledge the authority of the Pope to speak infallibly on issues of faith and morals. When someone walks away from the

Catholic Church, he turns his back on Jesus' Bride and rejects many avenues of grace that lead to salvation.



John: Christ made His Church the ordinary means of salvation. He entrusted the Apostles and their successors with the Gospel and told them to proclaim it to all nations.

James: When the Church speaks, Jesus speaks; so when a Catholic leaves Her, he leaves the clear voice of God and begins to rely on himself, his pastor, or others for truth.



John: He rejects the Apostolic ministries of bishop, priest, and deacon; who through the laying on of hands are visible witnesses of Christ in the world.

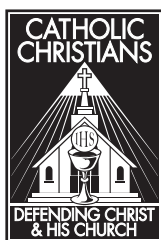
James: He loses a means of having his sins forgiven and the means of receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.

John: The Church is a living organism because Jesus lives and acts through Her; and the Holy Spirit guides and protects Her.

James: When someone leaves the Catholic Church, he leaves the fullness of God's Body and the infallible source of divine truth.

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Please visit: www.catholicchristians.com for more insight into the teaching of Jesus Christ and His Church.



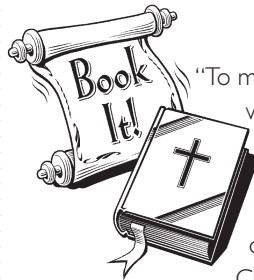
Jesus desires all of us to be in His one Church. "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd." ^{Jn 10:16} "Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." ^{Jn 15:4-5}

"The truth is to be found nowhere else but in the Catholic Church, the sole depository of apostolic doctrine. ... Where the Church is, there is the Spirit of God; and where the Spirit of God, there the Church and every grace."

^{St. Irenaeus, 180 A.D.} "O mystic wonder! The Father of all is indeed one, one also is the universal Word, and the Holy Spirit is one and the same everywhere; and one only is the Virgin Mother: I love to call her the Church. ... We say, therefore, that in substance, in concept, in origin and in eminence, the ancient and Catholic Church is alone, gathering as it does into the unity of the one faith." ^{St. Clement of Alexandria, 202 A.D.} "There is one God and one Christ, and one Church, and one Chair founded on Peter by the word of the Lord. It is not possible to set up another altar or for there to be another priesthood besides that one altar and that one priesthood. Whoever has gathered elsewhere is scattering." ^{St. Cyprian of Carthage, 251 A.D.}



BE ATTITUDES "Comfort in tribulation can be secured only on the sure ground of faith holding as true the words of Scripture and the teaching of the Catholic Church." ^{St. Thomas More} "About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know that they're just one thing, and we shouldn't complicate the matter." ^{St. Joan of Arc}



"To me, the very least of all the holy ones, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the inscrutable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the plan of the mystery hidden from ages past in God who created all things, so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the Church." ^{Eph 2:19-21} "But if I should be delayed, you should know how to behave in the household of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth." ^{1 Tim 3:15}

Lord Jesus, the Church is Your Bride and our earthly home where we can live secure in the knowledge that all truth is found in Her. I pray that all who have left will soon return and share in Your truth, Sacraments, and ordinary means of salvation. I ask this in Your Most Holy Name. Amen.

