

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Isn't It Enough Just To Believe In Christ?

Know This...

No one can call himself a Christian without believing that Jesus is true God and true man; and one becomes Christian by being baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. St. Paul says baptism makes us members of Jesus' Body—the Church. And the Bible says Jesus established one Church—the Catholic Church. This one Church, guided and protected by the Holy Spirit, is God's infallible voice on earth regarding faith and morals. It isn't enough just to believe in Christ. Christians must look to the Church to know the mind and will of God.

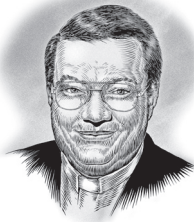


resurrection from the dead.

John: All Christians have much in common. They profess faith in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They believe that the Son

took on human flesh, died for our sins, and destroyed death through His

James: Unfortunately, the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century ushered in tens of thousands of varying views of what Christ taught. This scandalous division among Christians keeps many non-believers from accepting Jesus as God.

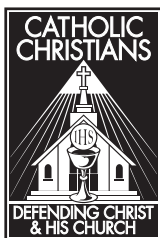


John: Our separated brothers and sisters in Christ proclaim that Jesus did not come to establish a visible church, but to bring the gospel of salvation to all. The Bible clearly shows that He did both.

James: Jesus is the means of reconciliation between the Father in heaven and His children on earth. Yet, it is only through the Catholic Church that we can know with certainty His mind and will.

Deacon John Beckmann and Deacon James Russell are permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

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Jesus established one Church. "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." ^{Mt. 16:18} Jesus declared that just as He and the Father are one, all of us will be members of 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} It is through the Catholic Church that we hear His voice clearly and completely.

"We are a body joined together by religious conviction, unity of discipline, and by hope. We who are so united in mind and in soul do not hesitate to share everything that we have" ^{Tertullian, 197}

^{AD} "Does anyone believe that in the Church this unity which proceeds from the divine stability and which is welded together after the heavenly patterns, can be divided, and can be separated by the parting asunder of opposing wills? Whoever holds not fast to this unity holds not to the law of God; neither does he keep faith with the Father and the Son, nor does he have life and salvation." ^{St. Cyprian of Carthage, 251 A.D.} "For 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.}



PAPA SAYS

"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." ^{Pope St. Boniface I}



"[Jesus] is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent." ^{Col 1:17-18} "For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ." ^{Rom 12:4-5} "I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose." ^{1 Cor 1:10} "If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed." ^{Gal 1:9}

Lord Jesus, You established one Church upon the rock, Simon Peter. Through baptism I became a member of this Church, Your Body. I pray that I will always acknowledge and accept the infallible insight and wisdom of the Catholic Church. I also pray that this Church, Your voice on earth, will become the beacon of hope for all mankind. I ask this in Your most Holy Name.

