

The background of the entire image is a light gray gradient. It is decorated with numerous realistic water droplets of various sizes. Some droplets are large and prominent, while others are small and subtle. They are scattered across the frame, with a higher concentration in the top-left and bottom-right corners. Each droplet has a soft highlight and a gentle shadow, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME

LEONARDO DE CHIRICO


The Roman Catholic Gospel

YNEOS

**Yes and No to the Gospel = NO
(2 Cor 1:12-22)**



IT'S A GLOBAL ISSUE

- 1.4 BILLION CATHOLICS AROUND THE WORLD
 - ROME IS A SIGNIFICANT PLAYER IN GLOBAL ISSUES
 - WE ALL HAVE CATHOLIC FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES, FAMILY MEMBERS
- 

IT'S A THEOLOGICAL ISSUE

- SINCE THE 16th CENTURY PROTESTANTISM HAS BEEN SHAPED IN DISTINCTION FROM ROMAN CATHOLICISM
- *CHRIST ALONE, FAITH ALONE* ... WERE COINED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A CONTROVERSY WITH ROME
- IS THE REFORMATION OVER?



IT'S AN EVANGELISTIC ISSUE

- **MOST CATHOLICS MAY BE RELIGIOUS BUT WITH LITTLE GOSPEL AWARENESS**
 - **NOMINALISM IS PERVASIVE**
 - **EVANGELISM IS A PRIORITY**
- 



WHY "ROMAN" AND WHY "CATHOLICISM?"



Roman

The Imperial/Centralizing paradigm

Catholicism

The Embracing/Absorption Project

Roman Catholicism is the resulting
synthesis of the on-going tension
between the two



ROMAN: Centralization / Confrontation	CATHOLICISM: Absorption
Hierarchical Authority	Outward Absorption
Confrontation of those who disagree	Welcoming those who disagree
Pope Benedict/ John Paul	Pope Francis
Trent/ Vatican I	Vatican II
Killing Jan Hus	Thomas Aquinas synthesizing Aristotle
Inquisition	Converting Kings
Persecution of Heretics	Absorption of Charismatic Movement
Lack of recognition of churches outside of Rome	Recognition of other Christians as Brothers and Sisters
Unchanging Character of Doctrine	Development of New Doctrine
One Center	Many varieties of Roman Catholicism
Waldensians	Franciscans
Inward/ Authority Focused	Outward focused
Focus on Eucharist and Sacrament	Integrating New Ideas into the Church

Here is a brief definition of Roman Catholicism

Roman Catholicism is a deviation from Biblical Christianity that has consolidated over the centuries by clustering around an imperial (Roman) institution, centering on its sacramental system, grounding itself on its synergistic theology and abnormal ecclesiology, And being fueled by its universal (catholic) project of embracing the whole world.

Roman Catholicism retains significant theistic Christian elements (e.g. The Trinity, morality), yet because of its blurred theological system it departs from Biblical Christianity at all points in different ways and degrees of intensity, resulting in a confused and distorted religion.



UNITY

PRE-VATICAN II VIEW OF UNITY

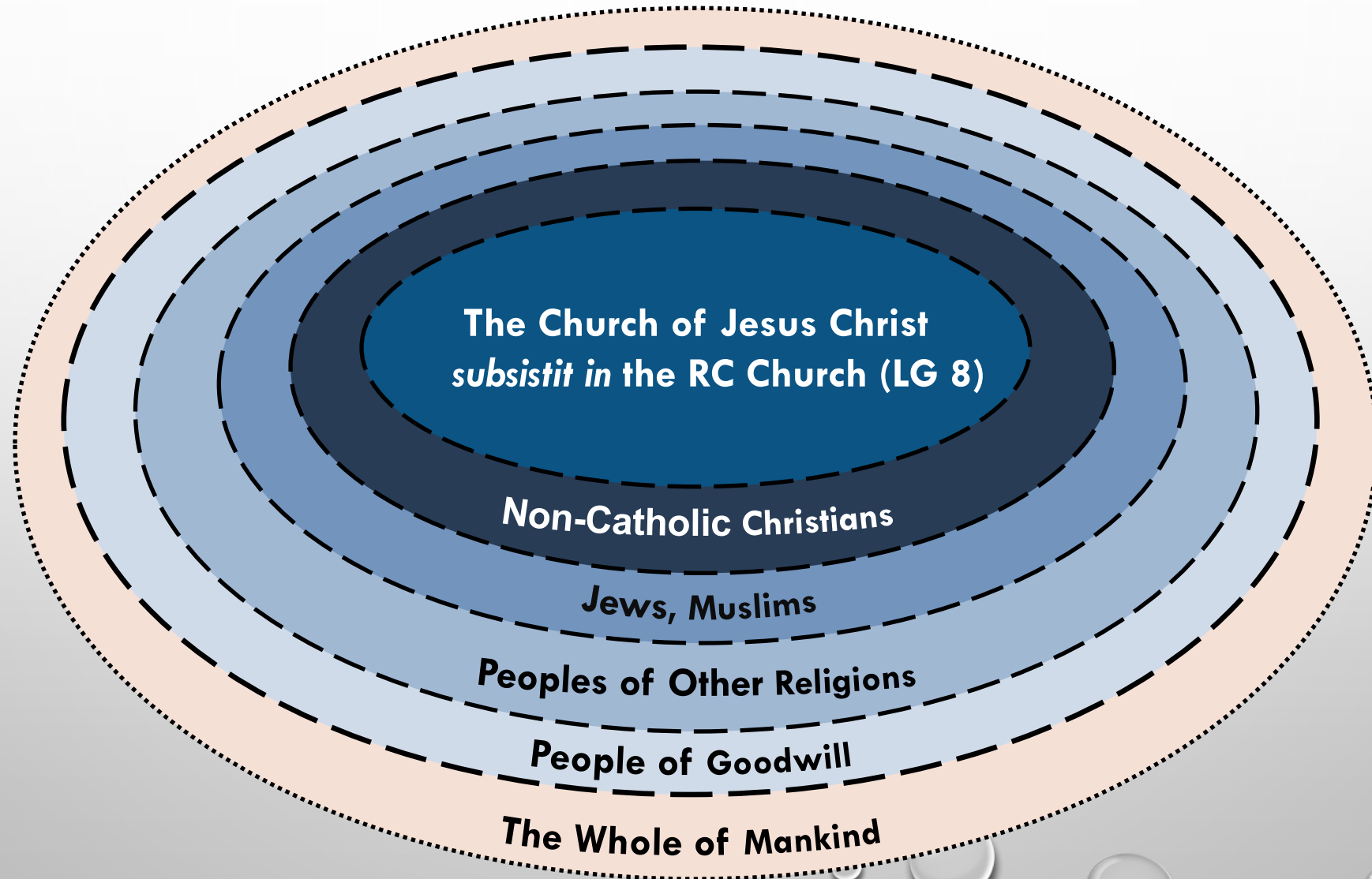
IN

**BAPTIZED AND
COMMUNICANT**

OUT

**Heretics
pagans and
ex-communicated**

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ECUMENISM: UNITATIS REDINTEGRATIO (1964) AND AD GENTES (1965)



ALL BROTHERS (*FRATELLI TUTTI*)



PRACTICAL TIPS: DON'T ASSUME OR RELY ON COMMON LANGUAGE

Same Words,
Different
Meaning

Let the Bible
Define Your
Language

PRACTICAL TIPS: BE PREPARED TO WRESTLE WITH THE EXCLUSIVE NATURE OF THE GOSPEL

Scripture
Alone

Faith
Alone

Christ
Alone

PRACTICAL TIPS: BE PREPARED TO SHOW THE PERSONAL ELEMENTS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Beyond
religion

Beyond
tradition

Beyond the
clergy/laity
divide

PRACTICAL TIPS: BE PREPARED TO INTEGRATE PERSONAL WITNESS AND CHURCH LIFE

Believing and Belonging go together

The importance of the ordinances, especially the Lord's supper. Catholics are not used to "listen"; they are used to see and experience through the senses and in the context of community.

Thank you!

Questions?



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