

# I Believe in the Holy Catholic Church

Introduction: Do we really need the church?

I believe in...  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,

## I. The Holy Catholic Church

### i. One Shepherd

*I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.*

John 10:14 (Cf. Ezekiel 34:11)

#### Implications:

#### a) There is just one head of the church

*Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Saviour.*

Ephesians 5:23b (Cf. Colossians 1:18)

#### b) Follow and obey the Shepherd

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

John 10:27 (Cf. Matthew 28:20)

### ii. One Flock

*I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.*

John 10:16 (Cf. Ezekiel 34:23)

#### Implications:

#### a) The church displays the manifold wisdom of God

*Through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*

Ephesians 3:10

#### b) The church allows for no racism or prejudice

*For you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation*

Revelation 5:9

## II. The Communion of Saints

### i. One Body

*For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility*

Ephesians 2:14

#### Implications:

#### a) Maintain the unity

*I, therefore, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called... eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 4:3

#### b) The Lord's Supper is a display of our unity

*The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.*

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

### ii. One Another

*There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

1 Corinthians 12:7

#### Implications:

Be at peace with <i>one another</i> (Mark 9:50)	Forgive <i>one another</i> (Ephesians 4:32)
Do not grumble with <i>one another</i> (John 6:43)	Count <i>one another</i> more significant than yourself (Philippians 2:3)
Love <i>one another</i> (John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:11)	Do not lie to <i>one another</i> (Colossians 3:9)
Live in harmony with <i>one another</i> (Romans 12:16)	Encourage <i>one another</i> (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
Do not pass judgement <i>on one another</i> (Romans 14:13)	Build <i>one another</i> up (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
Welcome <i>one another</i> (Romans 15:7)	Seek to do good to <i>one another</i> (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
Instruct <i>one another</i> (Romans 15:14)	Stir up <i>one another</i> to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)
Wait for <i>one another</i> (1 Corinthians 11:33)	Do not speak evil against <i>one another</i> (James 4:11)
Care for <i>one another</i> (1 Corinthians 12:25)	Do not grumble against <i>one another</i> (James 5:9)
Serve <i>one another</i> (Galatians 5:15)	Confess your sins to <i>one another</i> (5:16)
Do not provoke or envy <i>one another</i> (Galatians 5:26)	Pray for <i>one another</i> (James 5:16)
Bear <i>one another's</i> burdens (Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 4:2)	Show hospitality to <i>one another</i> (1 Peter 4:9)
Be kind to <i>one another</i> (Ephesians 4:32)	Be humble toward <i>one another</i> (1 Peter 5:5)

**Conclusion:** The Church is God's Plan