

## But, what is ecumenism?

Ecumenism is the belief and practice of working between religions for mutual purposes. It is more than tolerating each other; it is to change one's beliefs against what they have historically declared by changing your beliefs and practices.

**1 Corinthians 1:10** Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**

The issue in all of this is that there are differences between peoples and religions. These differences cause a lot of dissent, divisions, and contentions. We are reminded that the Pope and the Catholic Church **sent their people in the crusades to kill Muslims in the past.** So how should we address the issue of these divisions and differences?

The unity among us is very important in the eyes of God, but how to achieve it? The Catholic Church took the simple answer in starting the Great Inquisition and forcing or killing anybody that disagreed with them. In this official movement of the Catholic Church, the differences were repressed by force, torture, and persecution, by the sword.

## A Change of Tactics

In Ecumenism, the Catholic Church itself is promoting these ecumenical movements. There is a movement to unite the Catholic Church with all Protestant denominations and the Anglican Church. Their point of view is that the Catholic Church is the only correct original church, and these groups that came out of her are heresies. That is, they create a false union between different groups to give them the presumption that the Catholic church is right, and these groups are finally returning to the true authority, that of Catholicism.

## There is only one doctrine given to us from God the Apostles.

**Jude 1:3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you **of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**

If we understand the Bible well, then we will have to accept that the true religion given by God about the universe is only in the Bible. We cannot judge or analyze religions without returning to what God has declared to us in the Bible.

Any religious group is judged whether it is "biblical" or not (is right) from its conduct and to the doctrines, practices, and teachings of the Bible. Being recognized or receiving prestige is not what makes one correct or biblical, but obeying what God says.

**1 Corinthians 15:3** For I delivered unto you first of all that **which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;**

**2 Peter 3:2** **That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:**

**Acts 17:11** **These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

The right thing to do then is not to say what we want to believe and practice and force support from the Bible for this, but to see the Bible, and follow what has been given to us from God in the Bible. This position places high authority on the Scriptures. Our faith and practice have to be linked to what the Scriptures teach us.

**2 Timothy 3:16** **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

The Bible teaches that the Bible itself has the quality of being the very "breath of God," very

God is in the Bible and that means no errors and that it is what God wants us to have. But we have to limit ourselves to the authority of the Bible and not other books, tradition, or even the force of popularity today.

**Colossians 2:8** **Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**

That is, we are directly commanded by God not to fall into these logical and philosophical false groups.

"On the last day of his apostolic trip to Africa, Pope Francis visited the Bangui Central Mosque on Monday morning and told the Muslim community that Christians and Muslims should consider each other brothers and behave as such." (<https://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2015/11/30/pope-mosque-men-brothers-imam-christiansmuslims-condemned-love-one-another/>)

Pope Francis essentially commanded that we treat Muslims as our brothers in Christ! First, we must treat the whole world civilly by demonstrating the love of Christ to all, **but they are not our brothers and the salvation we have, they do not have, so this mistake is very serious.**

## The Ecumenical Tactic

The ecumenical tactic is to declare that "all paths reach heaven" or "that there is more than one path to heaven" or salvation.

**John 14:6** **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

The Bible declares that there is only one way to salvation, and it is through Jesus Christ. Only through faith in Jesus the Christ or the Savior can one be saved. Muslims believe that Jesus was a prophet, but not God in flesh among us. Because they do not believe this, they are not saved. The Jehovah's Witnesses also deny the full deity of Jesus Christ then they are not saved either.

**Acts 4:12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Catholics believe they can enter heaven and salvation through Mary instead of Jesus or in addition to Jesus. Their prayers and faith are as much in Mary as Jesus, **But Jesus is the only way (John 14:6)** and he is **the only intercessor (Acts 4:12)**. When they complain that we are excessively aggressive against Catholicism (and according to them, needlessly), we must put forth that we have not changed the faith once delivered to the saints, but Catholicism has. They wandered from the Holy Bible themselves and they will have to pay the consequences of this.

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Paul had pride in the gospel that God has given him. It is only by this gospel that all men and women of the world become saved. By submitting to this gospel one is saved, and by being subject to the doctrines and practices of the Bible one is in communion with God (**1 John 2:3-4, 3:22, 24, 5:2-3**).

#### **Biblical Our attitude toward the Falsehood**

**Ephesians 5:11** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

There is a duty for every Christian to rebuke false religions, beliefs, and practices. Ecumenicalism tries to formally approve what Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Hindus, Muslims, etc. believe and practice, (1) prohibiting any rebuke of them, and (2) participating with them in their falsehoods.

An example here is to see how Paul dealt with the Judaizers. They were really Jews who tried to infiltrate Christian groups and in their churches proclaiming they were of the same belief and practice. But they still dealt with a different belief

about salvation, which the Bible does not teach. The Bible teaches that we are saved by faith in the death of Jesus Christ, but they wanted to force Christians under the yoke of obeying the Law of Moses to obtain grace in order to be saved. Today the Messianic Jews do the same. But how did Paul treat these who were of another doctrine and practice?

**Galatians 2:5** To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Paul did not concede any ground to them but opposed them as the false prophets they are. If the Pope and the Catholic Church were like Paul and the Judaizers of biblical times, then they would sign a pact of recognition (that each one is biblical) between them and work together, etc, but we do not see this but rather a strong condemnation on Paul's part toward the false prophets.

**Revelation 18:4** And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

The Apostle John explains that things are moving towards a specific finality, and God has revealed to us what that is. Satan's great rebellion is going to make a world religion (a union), and this religion is going to worship him, and it is going to be manipulated by him. John does not support Babylon (one world religion) and he has nothing to do with this great false church, and he will not get involved with it.

## **Catholicism and Ecumenism supporting error**



By David Cox

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**Ezequiel 13:10** Yes, because they deceived my people, saying: Peace, there being no peace; ...

**Jeremiah 6:14** And they heal the wound of my people with lightness, saying: Peace, peace; And there is no peace.

There are many groups that call for peace between different religions in the world. They want to see a union between religions, and they want Christianity to recognize and work with other religious groups as opposed to true Christianity which separates from false doctrine. **Ecumenism** is useful for forming this union for religious peace, and ecumenism has as its goal to unite our beliefs with other groups to make an amalgamation between all groups.