

Irreconcilable Differences: Catholics, Evangelicals and the New Quest for Unity, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. Some Catholics and Evangelicals sat down to seek new ground for unity such as unity on the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

II. What is at stake for the gospel.

A. Not every Evangelical church or Catholic church are real churches even if there are maverick believers in both.

B. A key question is not simply whether Jesus is Savior but *how* Jesus is Savior.

C. One of the most difficult things to know as Christians is when to be tolerant and when to be restrictive. The gospel cannot be negotiated.

D. The gospel is at stake.

E. Justification by faith alone is essential to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

F. The eternal soul of a person is at stake. The right doctrine of salvation is essential.

III. What is at stake for saying there are two separate ways for salvation: regeneration and sacraments.

A. Both Rome and historical Protestantism maintain that regeneration is necessary for salvation.

B. The instrumental cause of salvation is by faith alone contra what Rome says: the sacraments.

C. Protestants view salvation as completed through justification, whereas Catholics view it as in progress.

D. Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord is not a pre-salvation work. It is all the work of God.

E. Regeneration and Lordship is not perfection but a hatred of sin and a love for Christ.

IV. Evangelism.

A. When there is a context for Christian morality, the gospel is more easily received.

B. The essence of the Christian doctrine is not charity.

C. James does not teach that works save but that real faith works. (James 2:24)

V. Sola Scriptura versus the magisterium.

Application Questions:

1. Are Catholics saved? Explain.

2. What is the gospel? Why is it important to distinguish how Catholics and Evangelicals view the gospel?

3. How should believers understand James 2:24? Do works save? Explain.
