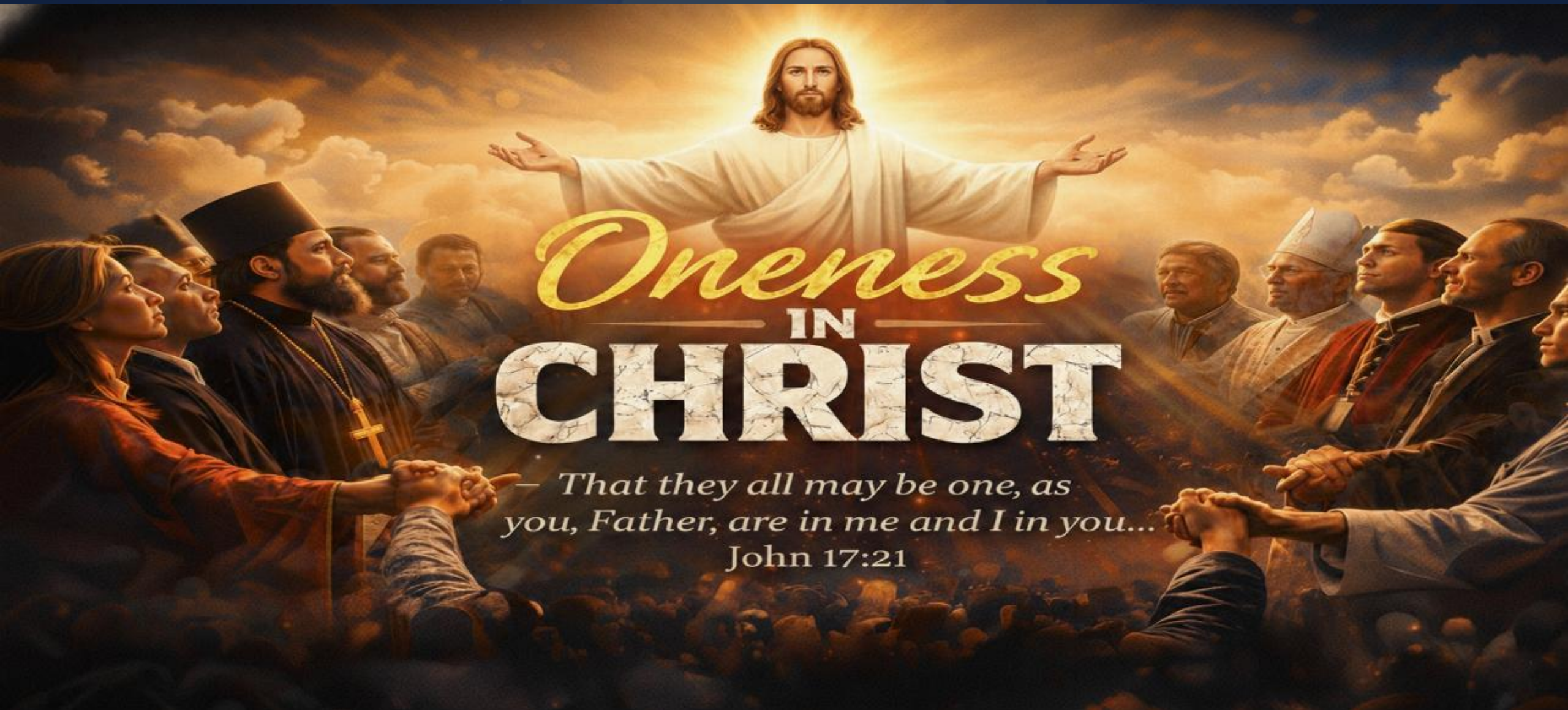
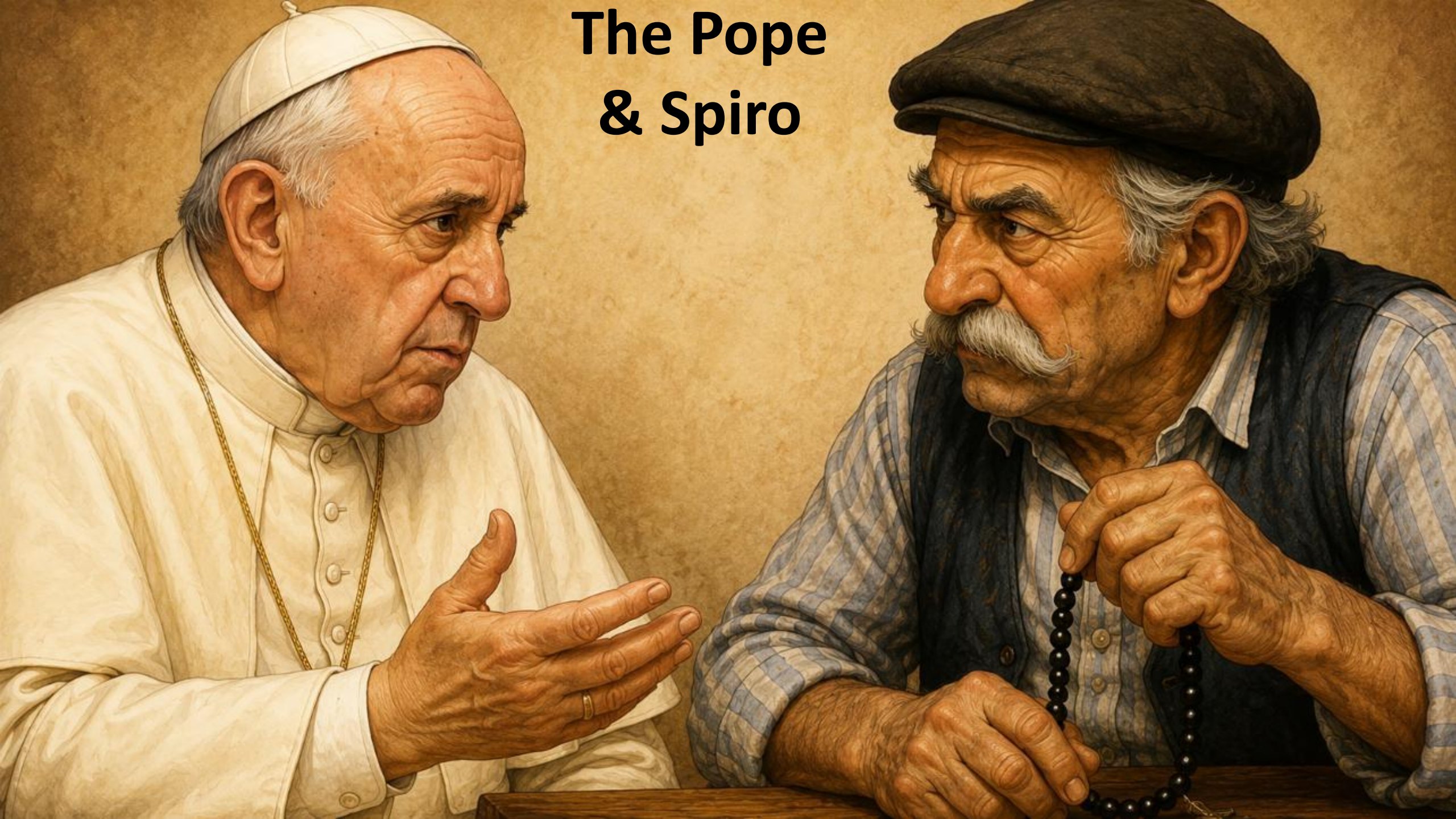


The Prayer We've Been Ignoring For Centuries



Dr. Bill Marianes • StewardshipCalling.com & ChurchRoadmap.com

The Pope & Spiro



I'll ask you
three questions,
and then
let you use your
free will to decide
whether to leave
or stay and be
challenged.



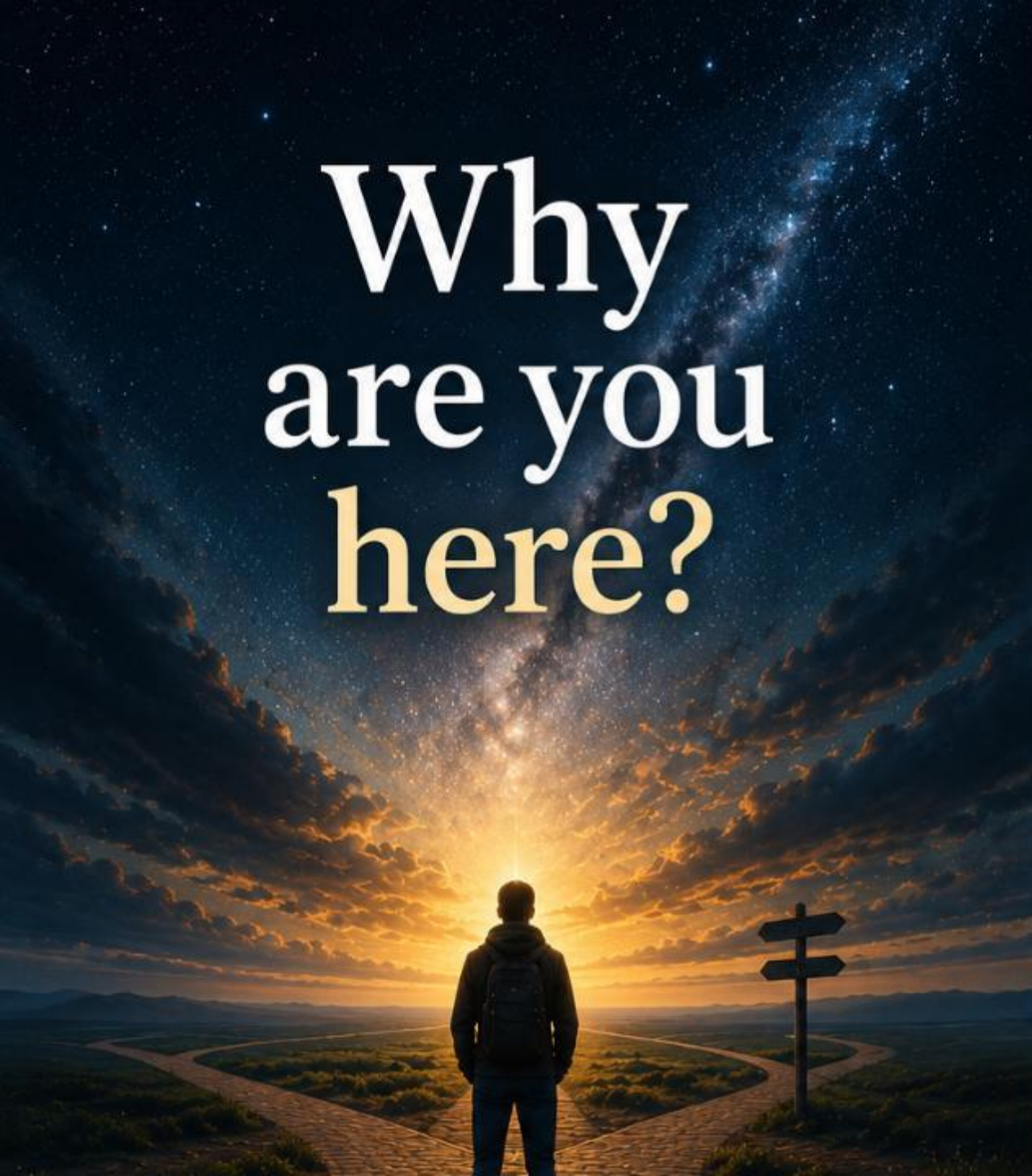
What story
will you tell
when you stand
before the
awesome
judgment seat
of **Christ** at your
II Corinthians 5:10
moment?



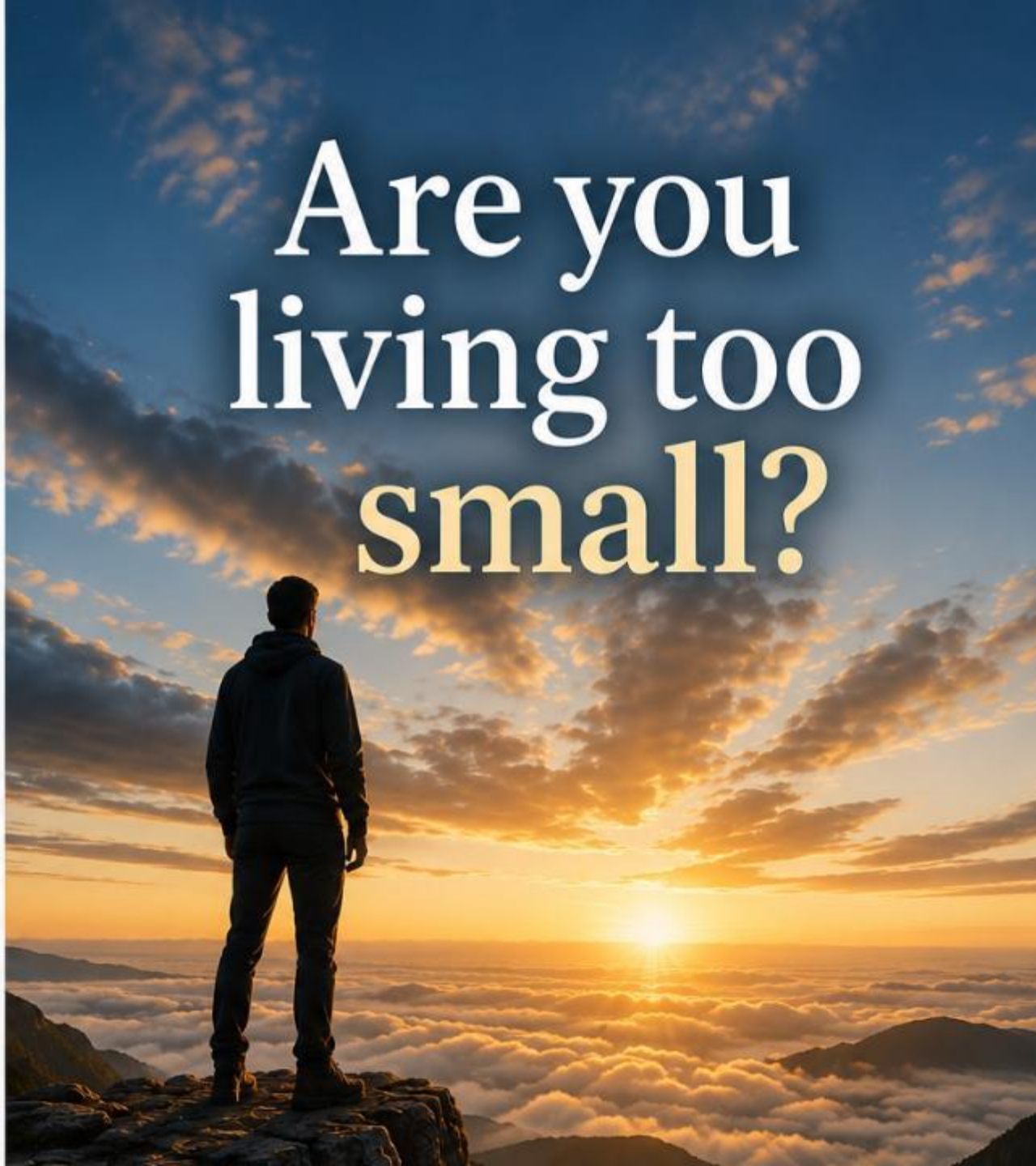
For we must all appear
before the judgment seat
of Christ, that each one may
receive the things done in
the body, according to what
he has done, whether good
or bad.

II Corinthians 5:10

Why
are you
here?



Are you
living too
small?





—❧—

You take
the **blue** pill,
the story ends,
and you keep
believing and
doing the
same things

—❧—

—❧—

Or you take
the **red pills**,
and I show you
how far the
rabbit hole of
Oneness In Christ
and unity can
take us
together

—❧—



Download this Presentation

<https://stewardshipcalling.com/aquinas-center-oneness-in-christ/>



Church Podcast Roadmap



Leadership
Stewardship

Spiritual Formation
Christian Unity

Strategic Planning

- 1st Wednesday
- 2nd Wednesday
- 3rd Wednesday
- 4th Wednesday
- months with a 5th Wednesday

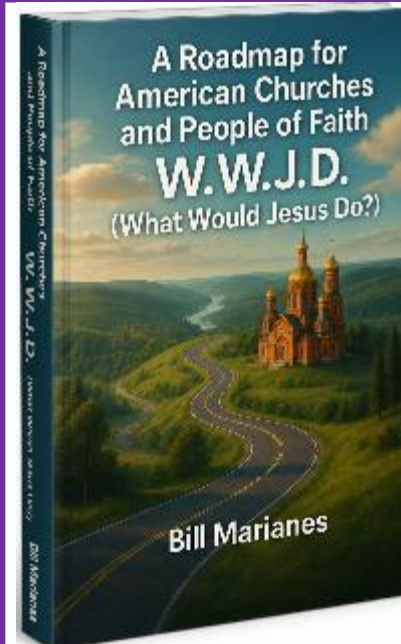


Watch or listen live 7:00 p.m. EDT:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@stewardshipcallingministry/live>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stewardshipcalling/videos>

Recorded versions available at: www.churchroadmap.com



A free 626-page comprehensive roadmap of best practices for churches and ministries

www.churchroadmap.com/



Chapters 1-2: Facts & Data
Chapters 3-6& 8: Leadership
Chapter 7: Strategic Planning
Chapters 9-11: Stewardship & Engagement
Chapters 12-14: Religious Education
Chapters 15-17: Christian Unity

TRIGGER EFFECT WARNING



DISCLAIMER

Some of what you hear might trigger an immediate defensive response.



If that happens, please take a **deep breath**,



sip some **wine**,



and then ask **WWJS** (*what would Jesus say*) about what I am thinking.



A dramatic, cinematic illustration of Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus, with long brown hair and a beard, is shown in profile, kneeling on a rocky surface with his hands clasped in prayer. He is wearing a white tunic and a blue robe. A large, ancient olive tree with thick, gnarled branches stands to his left, its leaves partially illuminated by a bright, golden light source in the dark, cloudy sky. In the background, a distant city with glowing lights is visible under the night sky. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

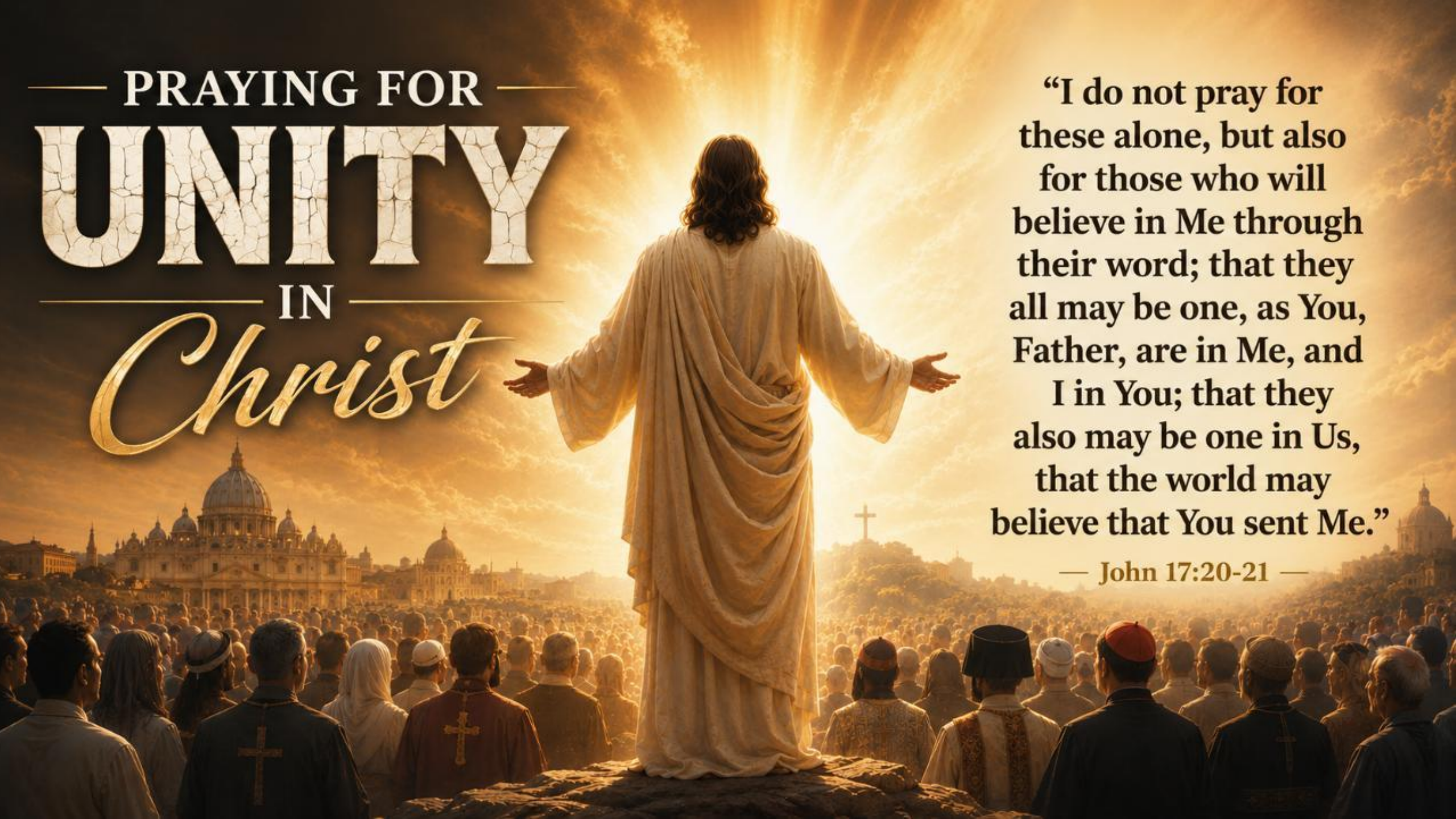
—❖—
The night
before our Lord
died for us,
*He prayed for
one thing.*
—❖—

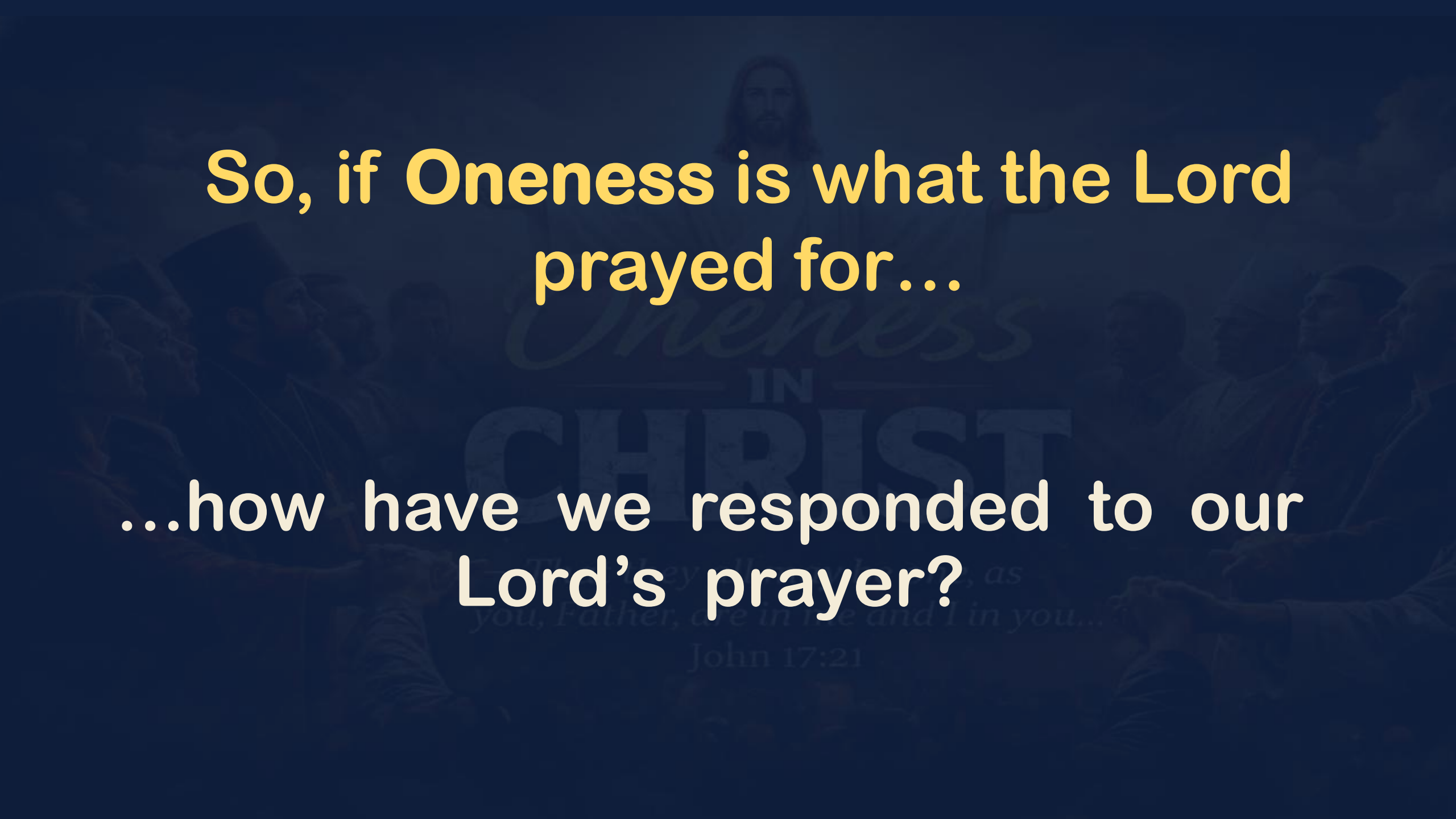
Not bigger buildings,
full collection plates,
happy people...

— PRAYING FOR —
UNITY
— IN —
Christ

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

— John 17:20-21 —





So, if **Oneness** is what the Lord
prayed for...

...how have we responded to our
Lord's prayer?

John 17:21

ONE CHURCH, FRACTURED INTO MANY THOUSANDS

33 AD

1 church

One Holy Catholic
and Apostolic
Church

1054 AD

3 churches

The “Un-Great
Schism”
splits East and West

2026 AD

45,000+

Distinct
denominations
and groups today¹

Ἀμαρτία (Greek for sin) means “missing the mark.”

**Our endless need to be “right” may be a profound
missing of the mark (sin).**

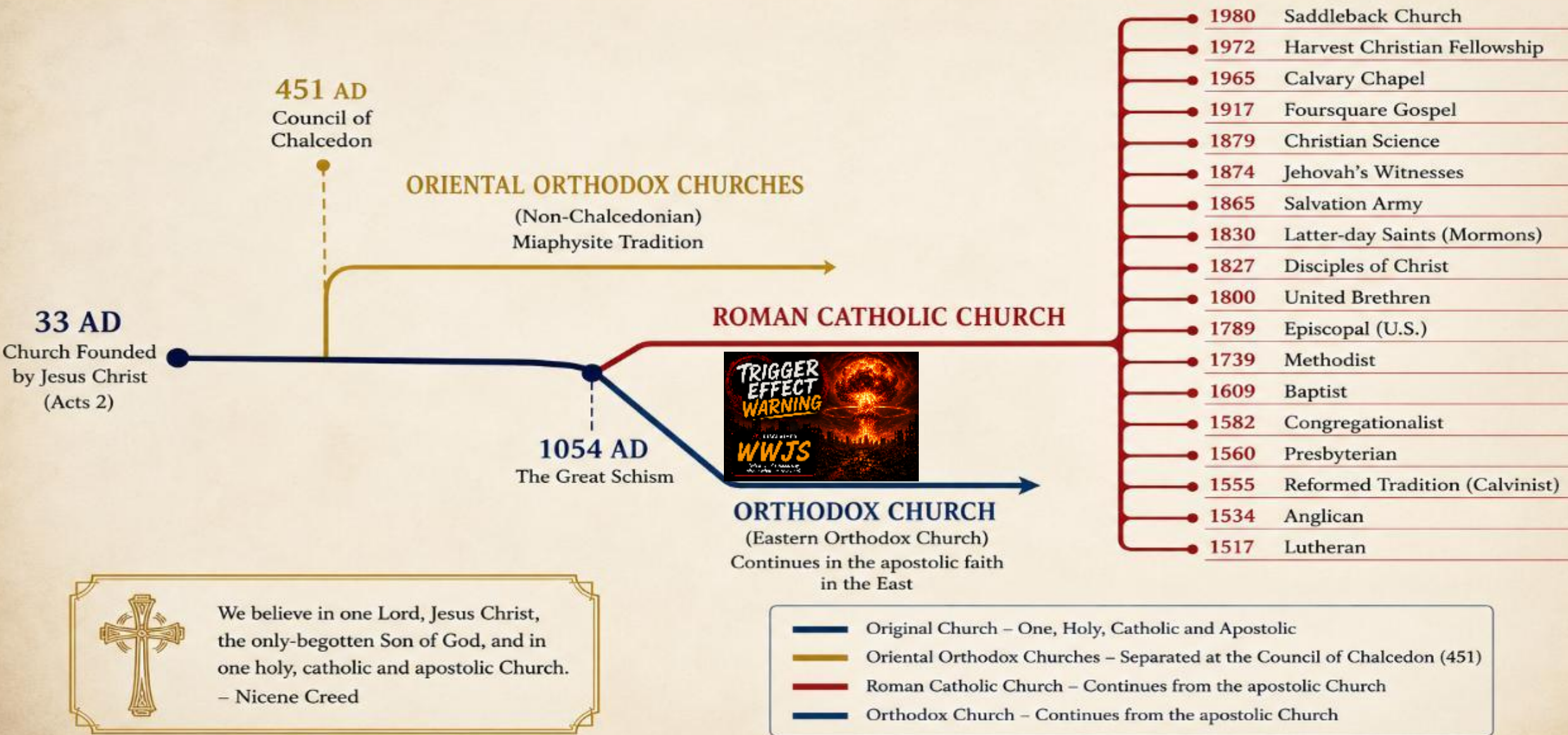
¹Counts vary by definition (World Christian Encyclopedia; Gordon-Conwell CSGC est. ~45,000Johnson, Todd M., & Zurlo, Gina A., World Christian Encyclopedia, 3rd ed. (Edinburgh University Press, 2019).,). The undisputed point: the one Church was divided, and divided again.



HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH



“Christian faith is always just one generation away from extinction.”

— Lord Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury

29%

of U.S. adults are
“**NONEs**” claiming
no religious
affiliation

22%

of U.S. adults are
“spiritual but
not religious”

43%

of cradle
Catholics have left
the Roman
Catholic church

47%

of cradle
Orthodox have
left the Orthodox
church

Generations walk out the door while we argue about who is right.



In Your II Corinthians 5:10 Moment

How will you explain dividing
Christ's 1 church into 45,000
and losing nearly 50% of
our cradle "PIPs"
(Parishioners In Pews)?



Two Kinds of Disciples



DD

Denominational Disciple

- Argues their tradition is correct
- Points out everyone else's mistakes
- Draws circles to keep people out
- Sees the speck, ignores the plank (Mt 7)

OICD

Oneness In Christ Disciple

- Holds truth with humility
- Never disparages other Christians
- Seeks cooperation with conscience
- Remembers Christ drew 1 circle

Which one will you choose to be?

THE COUNCIL OF JERUSALEM

Acts 15:1-29

Unity in Truth. Freedom in Christ.

ST. PAUL & ST. BARNABAS
Advocated for the Gentiles

"...we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are." (Acts 15:11)

ST. JAMES
Led the final consensus

"Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God." (Acts 15:19)

THE JUDAIZERS
Insisted Gentiles must keep Mosaic Law

"Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." (Acts 15:1)



Salvation by grace through faith in Christ



The Gentiles are full members of God's people



The Holy Spirit makes no distinction (Acts 15:8-9)



Circumcision is necessary



Keep the Mosaic Law



Become Jews to be part of God's covenant



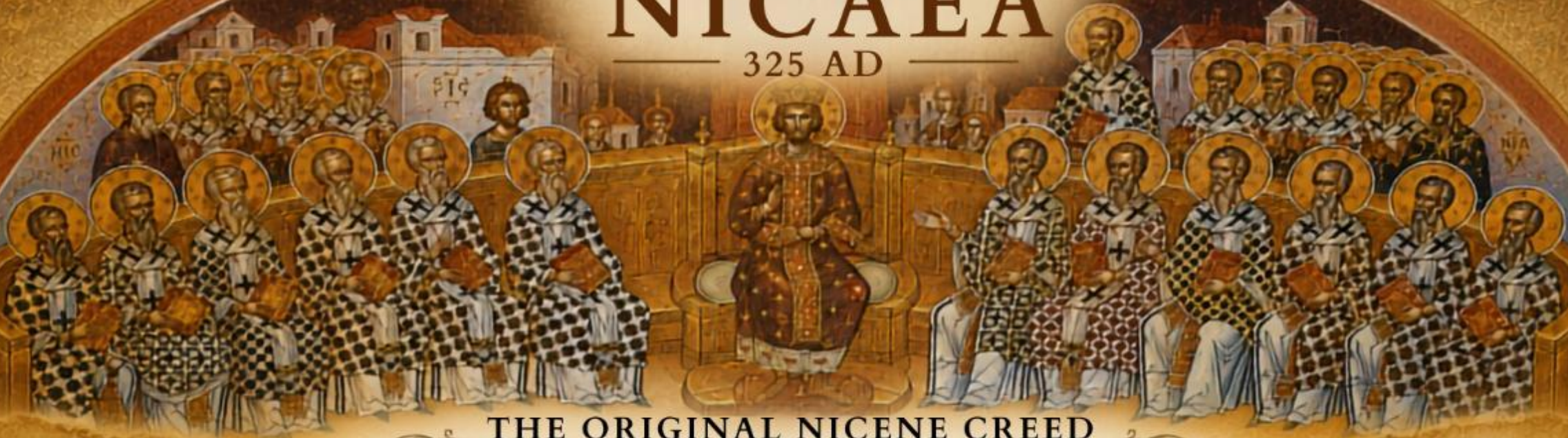
THE CONSENSUS OF THE APOSTLES AND ELDERS
Gentiles do not have to become Jews to become Christians.
We are saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
(Acts 15:28-29)



THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF

NICAEA

325 AD



THE ORIGINAL NICENE CREED

~~Arianism~~

Condemned as heresy:

Christ is true God, consubstantial
with the Father.

We believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one essence (homousious) with the Father,
Through Him all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the Virgin Mary, and was made man;

and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate,
and suffered and was buried;
and the third day He rose again,
according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of the Father;
and He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead;
whose kingdom will have no end.
And in the Holy Spirit.

But those who say, "There was a time
when He was not," and "Before He was born
He was not," and "That He came to
from things that were not,"
or who said that the Son of God was of another
essence or substance, or that He is changeable
or alterable—these the Catholic and Apostolic
Church anathematizes. Amen.



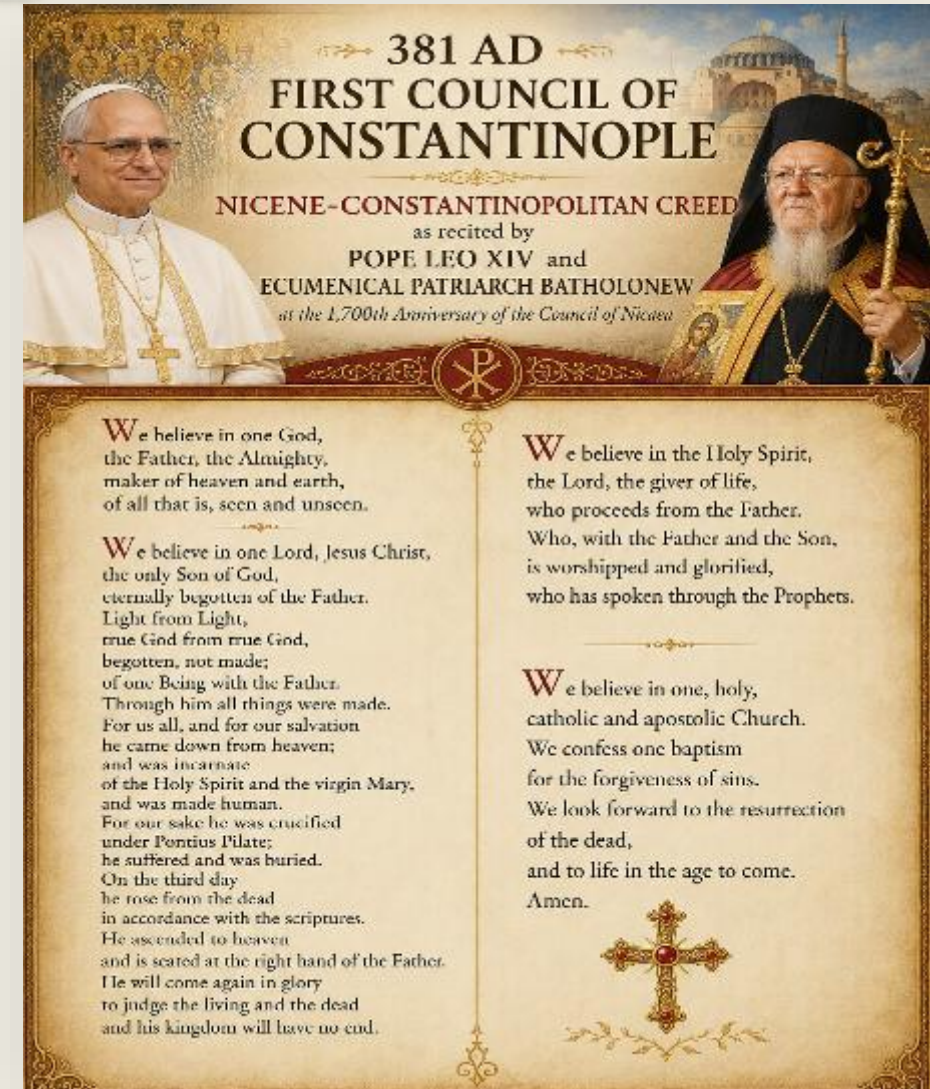
Uniform Pashca/Easter

Easter is to be celebrated
on the first Sunday after
the first full moon following
the spring equinox.

56 Years Later

IN THE
BLINK
OF AN EYE

1,700 Years Later

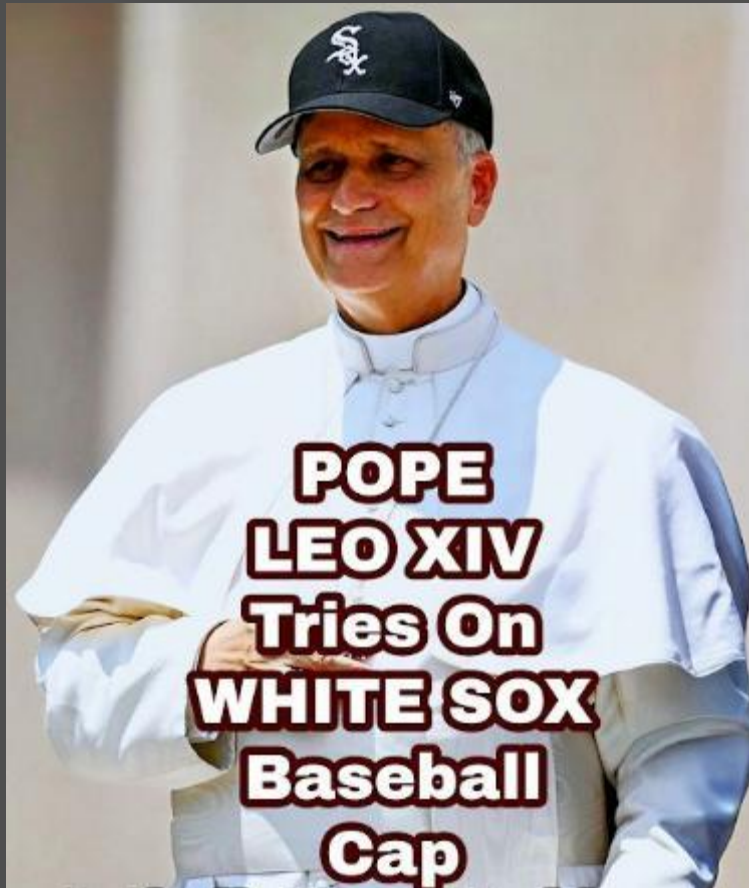


ORTHODOX
&
ROMAN
CATHOLIC
UNITY
PROGRESS

Sox

The Divison Decision Alomst As Critial As the Orthodox Catholic One





Father Tom Hurley

led the **Sign of Peace** at
the August 11, 2026,
Chicago White Sox
"Pope Night"

(with Sister Mary Joe
tossing the first pitch)



**The “Green Patriarch”
Bartholomew doing what he
loves, taking care of God’s
creation and creatures...**



**...and receiving the jerseys
of Greek international
footballers Manolis Siopis
and Tasos Bakasetas**



The Official Orthodox Perspective:



Ecumenism is **NOT** a heresy.



“But no ecumenical or local council of the Orthodox Church has ever declared ecumenism a heresy. ...the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church in June 2016 strongly endorsed the continued participation of the local Orthodox Churches in both bilateral and multilateral ecumenical undertakings.”^{1 2}

¹ Ladouceur, P. (2017). On Ecumenoclasm: Anti-Ecumenism in Orthodox Theology. *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, 61, 323-55.

² “Encyclical of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church” (Crete, June 2016), § 20; “Message of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church” (Crete, June 2016), § 3; Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, Crete, June 2016, “Relations of the Orthodox Church with the Rest of the Christian World,” §§ 4-7, 23.

The Official Roman Catholic Perspective: ✠ Ecumenism is **NOT** a heresy.

¹ Paul VI. (1964, November 21). *Unitatis redintegratio* (Decree on ecumenism). In Documents of the Second Vatican Council. The Holy See.
https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19641121_unitatis-redintegratio_en.html

² John Paul II. (1995, May 25). *Ut unum sint* [Encyclical letter on commitment to ecumenism]. The Holy See. https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25051995_ut-unum-sint.html

³ Second Vatican Council. (1964, November 21). *Unitatis redintegratio* (Decree on ecumenism). The Holy See.
https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19641121_unitatis-redintegratio_en.html

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL (1964)

"The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council...

POPE JOHN PAUL II 1995 ENCYCLICAL:

"The Catholic Church embraces with hope the commitment to ecumenism as a duty of the Christian conscience enlightened by faith and guided by love." ²

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH'S VIEW OF EASTERN ORTHODOX: "These

(Eastern Orthodox) Churches, although separated from us, possess true sacraments, above all by apostolic succession, the priesthood and the Eucharist."

COUNCIL OF FLORENCE 1439

AREAS OF AGREEMENT

SHARED FAITH



One God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit



Full divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ



The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed



Seven Ecumenical Councils



Apostolic succession



Validity of each other's sacraments



Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist



Seven sacramental mysteries
(though expressed differently)



Communion of saints



Prayer for the departed



COUNCIL OF FLORENCE 1439

+ EASTERN TRADITIONS PRESERVED +



Byzantine Divine Liturgy retained



Married parish clergy retained



Leavened bread retained



Eastern canon law retained



Eastern spirituality and monasticism retained



COUNCIL OF FLORENCE 1439

REMAINING AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT

AUTHORITY

Nature of the Pope's primacy and infalibility
("universal jurisdiction" vs. "first among equals")

DOCTRINE

The *Filioque* in the Nicene Creed ("and the Son")

The Latin formulation of Purgatory

Some theological terminology and method



The Last 60 Years Of Slow Reconciliation



1965

Pope Paul VI & Patriarch Athenagoras lift the mutual excommunications of 1054 and exchange a kiss of peace.



**1995 –
2004**

Pope John Paul II apologizes for the sack of Constantinople and returns the relics of St. John Chrysostom & St. Gregory the Theologian.



**2014 -
2026**

Patriarch Bartholomew & Popes Francis and Leo XIV pray together. Pope Francis calls the Patriarchs “brothers in Christ.”



Today

Orthodox & Catholic lawyers are leading the way with joint U.S. Supreme Court and federal court briefs on shared causes.

Selected Ecumenical Reconciliation Statements

1982 **MUNICH**: *"The Mystery of the Church and of the Eucharist in the Light of the Mystery of the Holy Trinity"*:
Confirmed Orthodox and Catholics understand their faith as deriving from the apostolic faith. The Spirit who proceeds from the Father, the Spirit of our sonship and the Spirit of the Son, (a possible filioque resolution).

1986-7 **BARI**: *"Faith, Sacraments and the Unity of the Church."* Explaining that faith is a gift from God, a grace offered by the Spirit, and a response from the person who receives it.

1988 **VALAMO**: *"The Sacrament of Order in the Sacramental Structure of the Church."*

1990 **FREISING**: *"Uniatism: Method of Union of the Past, and the Present Search for Full Communion"*

1993 **BALAMAND**: *"Uniatism, Method of Union of the Past, and the Present Search for Full Communion"*
Rejected Uniatism attempting unity by separating groups from their churches.

2007 **RAVENNA**: *"Ecclesiological and Canonical Consequences of the Sacramental Nature of the Church: Ecclesial Communion, Conciliarity and Authority."*

2016 **CHIETI**: *"Ecclesiological and Canonical Consequences of the Sacramental Nature of the Church: Ecclesial Communion, Conciliarity and Authority."*

2023 **ALEXANDRIA**: *"Synodality and Primacy in the Second Millennium and Today."*



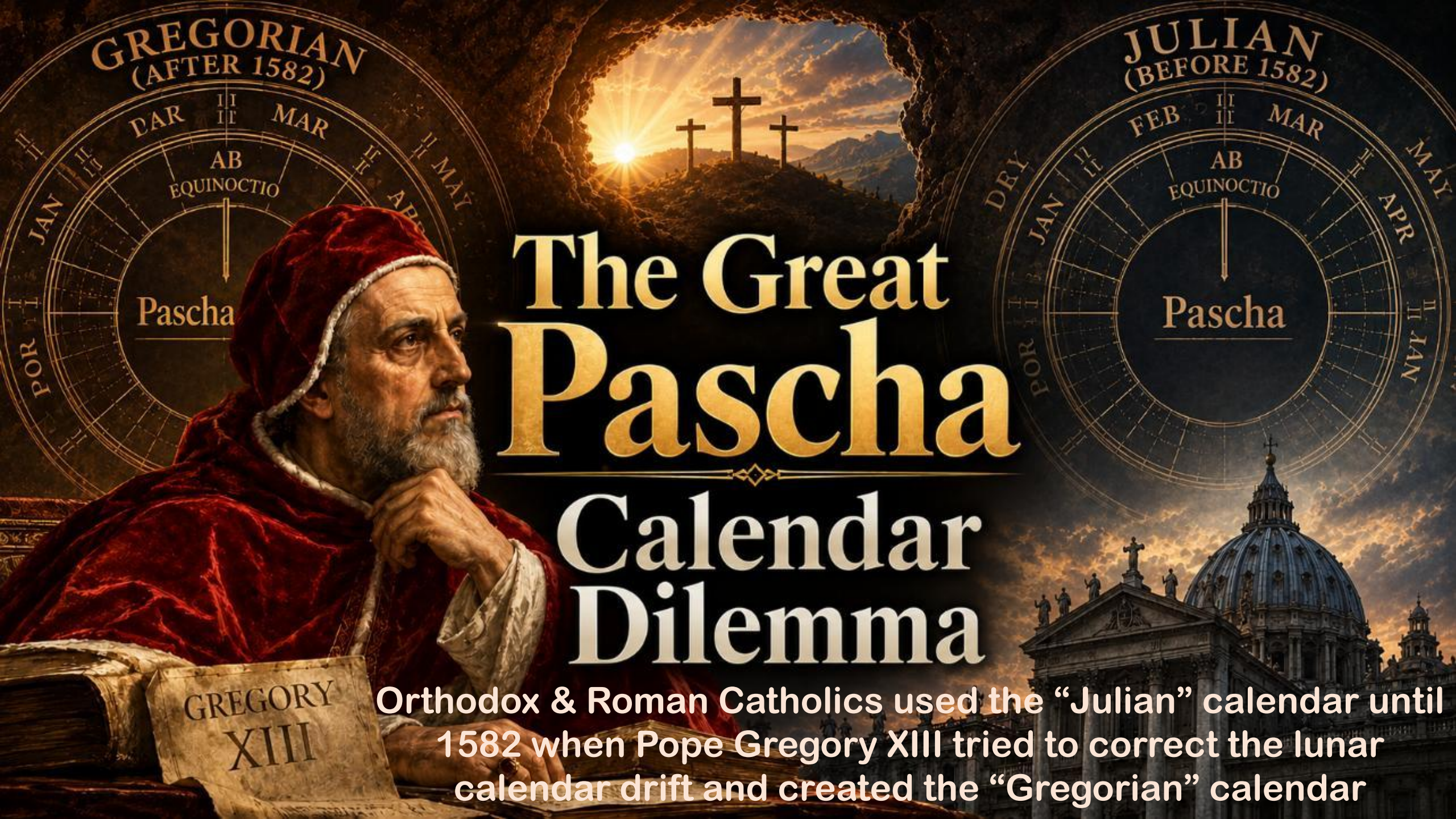
“I assure you of my desire to persevere in the effort to restore full visible communion between our Churches.”

“The attainment of this goal can only come about, with God’s help, through a continued commitment to respectful listening and fraternal dialogue.”

Pope Leo XIV

ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV TO THE DELEGATION OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL - 28 June 2025

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2025/june/documents/20250628-patriarcato-ecumenico.html>



The Great Pascha Calendar Dilemma

Orthodox & Roman Catholics used the “Julian” calendar until 1582 when Pope Gregory XIII tried to correct the lunar calendar drift and created the “Gregorian” calendar

ONE UNEXPECTED BENEFIT OF OUR DIFFERENT EASTER DATES...



CATHOLICS
BUY THE CANDY...



ORTHODOX
BUY WHAT'S LEFT...



AT 50% OFF.



**PERHAPS ANOTHER REASON WE SHOULD FINALLY
CELEBRATE PASCHA TOGETHER...**



The Pascha (Easter) Calendar Dilemma

Pope Leo XIV

“...causes pastoral problems within communities, divides families, and weakens the credibility of our witness to the Gospel.” “I would reaffirm the openness of the Catholic Church to the pursuit of an ecumenical solution favouring a common celebration of the Lord's Resurrection.”



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

"We hope and pray that all Christians... will commit themselves to the process of reaching a common celebration of the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ."



The Pascha (Easter) Calendar Dilemma



**Father John
Chrysavgis**

Patriarchal spokesman and
Huffington Ecumenical Institute
Hellenic College Holy Cross

“...Orthodox Church’s calculation of Easter uses the increasingly inaccurate Julian Calendar ...”

“... Orthodox Easter will increasingly be celebrated out of step with the expected Nicaean norms.”

“The calendar dilemma is and never has been doctrinal, but purely pastoral... it is clear that the Julian Calendar fails to meet the criteria of Nicaea.”

+ THE GREAT +

FILIOQUE DILEMMA

("and the Son")



THE ORIGINAL NICENE CREED (325)

... And in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken
through the Prophets.



EASTERN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

PROCEEDS
FROM THE
FATHER

PROCEEDS
FROM THE
FATHER
**AND THE
SON**

A
QUESTION OF
OF THE
PROCESSION OF
THE HOLY
SPIRIT



ROMAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE FILIOQUE ADDITION (LATER ADDED IN THE WEST)

... And in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the
Father **and the Son**
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken
through the Prophets.

ONE FAITH. ONE BAPTISM. ONE SPIRIT.
CAN WE BE TRULY ONE?

What is
a word?



“Much of the difference between the early Latin and Greek traditions is due to the subtle difference of:

LATIN: “*procedere*” “coming forth” in a general sense

.

GREEK: “*ἐκπόρευσις*” “takes ultimate origin”

A Filioque Quick History

381 → Ecumenical Council of Constantinople: “proceeds from the Father”

589 → Toledo: *Filioque* appears in Spanish usage

8th–9th centuries → spreads into Frankish Christianity

809 → Charlemagne's Council of Aachen endorses it

810 → Pope Leo III refuses to put it into the Creed

810-1014 → for two centuries after Leo III, Rome resists the addition

1014 → Pope Benedict VIII finally agreed to use the *Filioque* in Henry II's coronation mass after his request due to Frankish/German tradition

Popes and Orthodox Patriarchs have repeatedly jointly professed the 381 A.D. Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed without the Filioque

1987

ST. JOHN PAUL II
+ Patriarch Dimitrios
*Rome • St. Peter's
Basilica*

1995

ST. JOHN PAUL II
+ Patriarch Bartholomew
*Rome • St. Peter's
Basilica*

2002

ST. JOHN PAUL II
+ Patriarch Teoctist
Rome • Papal Mass

2004

ST. JOHN PAUL II
+ Patriarch Bartholomew
Rome • Sts. Peter & Paul

2008

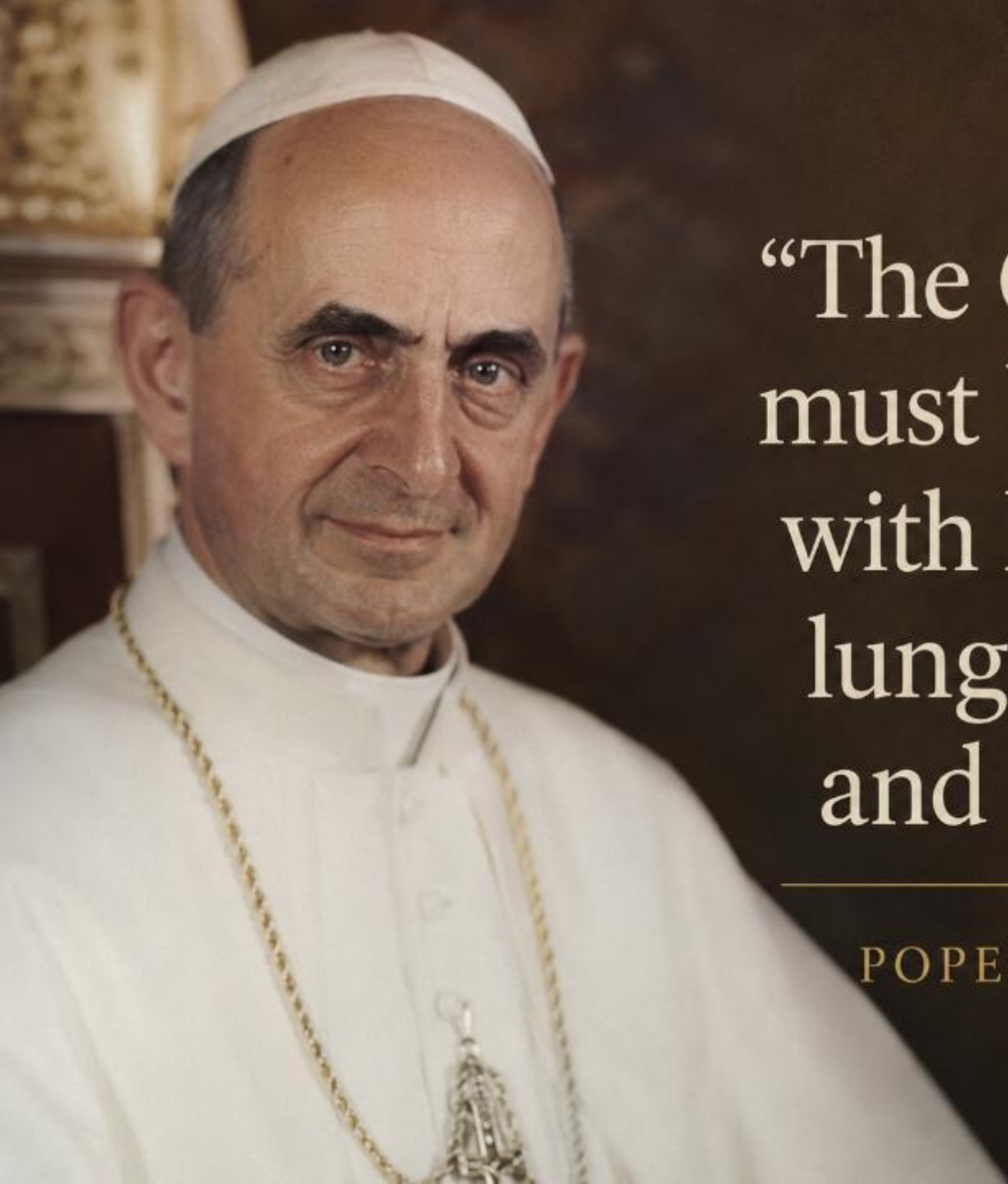
BENEDICT XVI
+ Patriarch Bartholomew
Rome • Sts. Peter & Paul

2025

**LEO XIV + Patriarch
Bartholomew +
Christian leaders
*İznik/Nicaea***

Sources: Vatican, Ut Unum Sint §24; Vatican Papal Liturgies (29 Jun 2004);
Vatican (29 Jun 2008); USCCB, "The Filioque: A Church-Dividing Issue?"
(2003); Vatican, İznik ecumenical service (28 Nov 2025).





“The Church
must breathe
with her two
lungs, East
and West.”

POPE PAUL VI





“I dare not
to call as false
any church which
believes Jesus
is Christ”



METROPOLITAN FILARET
OF MOSCOW



**ST. PAUL ON “DENOMINATIONAL
DISCIPLES” JUDGING OTHERS**

**“But why do you judge your brother?
Or why do you show contempt for your
brother?”**

**“FOR WE SHALL ALL
STAND BEFORE THE
JUDGMENT SEAT OF
CHRIST.”**

(ROMANS 14:10)





- One Holy Spirit
- Many Languages
- One Church
- One Mission

- Same Gospel
- Same Apostolic Roots
- Different Communion



A VISION OF THE FUTURE

- Unity in diversity
- Communion, not uniformity
- Faithful to the past,
open to the future
- Oneness in Christ



WE SHOULD DO THE THREE Ps



PRAY

Seek God **together**
in faith and **humility**.



PLAY

Build friendships
and joy **together**.



PARTNER

Work side by side
to make a difference
together.

TOGETHER IN **UNITY**



*Two traditions.
One foundation.*



None of us were around in
either 33 AD or 1054 AD.

The oneness Christ prayed for
is more critical than ever.

The question is: Do YOU have
the Christ-centered courage
and conviction to live it and
build it now?



“THAT THEY MAY BE ONE”

An Orthodox and Catholic case for walking toward each other.

Dr. Bill Marianes

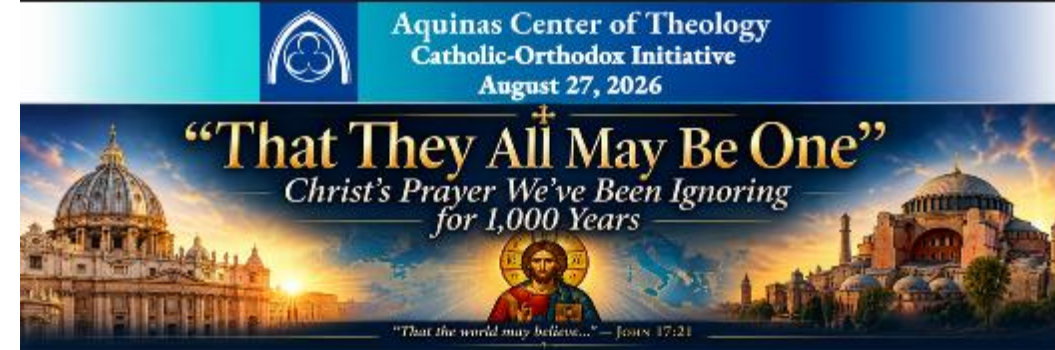
Bill@stewardshipcalling.com

Download this Presentation

Stewardship Calling

What are you doing with all of the gifts God has given you?

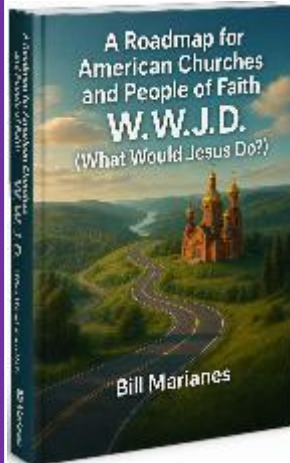
<https://stewardshipcalling.com/aquinas-center-oneness-in-christ/>



Church Podcast Roadmap



Church Podcast Book



Watch or listen live 7:00 p.m. EDT:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@stewardshipcallingministry/live>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stewardshipcalling/videos>

Recorded podcasts and book available at: www.churchroadmap.com



FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Contemplate your II Corinthians 5:10 Moment

Pretend Christ walked into this room now and asked you:



“What specific actions will you/we take to fulfill My prayer for Oneness and Christian Unity?”