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# **The Ecumenical Goal of Roman Ecumenism**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## The Ecumenical Goal of Roman Ecumenism.

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The ecumenical goal of the Roman Papal Church today is to extend the Vatican's religious, political and cultural influence far beyond its own borders. A century ago, the Catholic Church refused any involvement in the growing ecumenical movement that was born among Protestants. Today (2021) especially under the leadership of Pope Francis, the Catholic Church is perhaps the foremost advocate of ecumenical unity. The Catechism of the Catholic (CCC) plainly states that, "the Church is Catholic because Christ is present in her" and goes on to say that this is manifested visibly in the following three primary ways:

1. Correct and complete confession of faith.
2. Full sacramental life.
3. Ordained ministry in apostolic succession.

The Catechism affirms, the Roman Pontiff as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church is the foundation of the unity of the church, both, of the bishops and of the whole company of the faithful" and therefore the Pope has full, supreme and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered.

The apostolic hierarchy is so foundational to Catholic identity and their faith, and the belief they are the Church that Christ founded and is governed by the successors of Peter and other Apostles, that other churches are not considered by Rome to be churches in the proper sense.

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The Roman Papal Church believes they have an intimate union with God, and their mission is for the unity of the whole human race, and to save every creature, that all things may be restored in Christ and all maybe one family in Him.

Though the Papal Church accept saving grace can exist outside the boundaries of the Catholic Church among churches and communities separated from them, Rome declares that it is only through Christ's Catholic Church, which is the all-embracing means of salvation,' that believers can fully benefit from the means of salvation.

**Pope Francis (2022):** to bring the human race under the umbrella of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis (2022) is shifting the Churches focus in the following ways:

- Shifting the emphases from doctrinal rigidity to more inclusive patterns and human' issues that find appeal to a far greater global community.
- Instead of focusing on the difference between the Church and the world, allow them to overlap, by giving more attention to the variety of people's conscience rather than doctrine.
- Focus on warmth rather than light, on empathy rather than judgment, and on attitude rather than differences in identity, and on embracing rather than teaching.
- Proclaiming nearness and closeness to God is more important than doctrinal integrity.
- Giving and belonging together a far higher priority than believing differently.

In this way Pope Francis is giving the Papal Church of Rome a welcoming image, enabling them to reconcile with different denominations and sects and to claim those outside its traditional boundaries. In this way Rome can consider former heretics as "separated brethren" in partial communion, and even define non-Christian religions as, "anonymous" forms of Catholic Christianity that have not yet reached full maturity.

By these means the Papal Roman Church can fulfill its mission to become the One Church of the whole world, under Peter and his Papal successor. However, full unity, rather than partial acceptance, requires the complete acceptance of the Roman Catholic view of the Papal Church, for all other views are considered lacking and defective.

The movement of the world toward Roman Catholic universality can be seen in the way in which the Pope is increasingly becoming a global figure whose influence extends beyond the religious to the political and the cultural, giving more appeal as worldwide leader advocate and spokesperson to more and more people, both Christians and non-Christians.

**Present-day Popes (2022):** are global figures, well known far beyond the borders of Christianity. In inter-faith circles, the Pope is increasingly considered to be the highest representative of Christianity and the most authoritative figure in the religious world. Some religious leaders from the Muslim world go as far as saying, that the Pope represents the whole of humanity when he advocates for the poor of the world or when he makes appeals for peace.

Today the influence of modern-day Popes stretches far beyond the boundaries of the Papacy, for its reach stretches into a vast geographic state of economic, political, and cultural influence extending far beyond its own borders. The fact many secular people, though not recognizing the outward religious doctrines and traditions of the Papacy, are ready to acclaim the Pope as a 'star' (at least when he makes politically correct statements) is a further indication that the reach of the Papacy goes far beyond its traditional ecclesiastical boundaries.

**CONCLUSION:** The religious and secular world seems to need a global figure that no political institution and no international organization can provide at the moment. It, is very possible as the collective mind of the global world (secular and Christian) becomes more conscious of the well-being of mankind, rather than what is important to God, that the Papacy becomes a universal leadership structure at the head the world's global church.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*