

Certainty 4 Eternity

The Roman Catholic Church

Catholics and Evangelicals have different views of what Church is ...

What similarities and differences do you notice about the way Catholics think about church?

Three types of Church .. The Universal Church?

"At the heart of evangelical theology's disagreement is the Catholic system's two axioms. The nature-grace interdependence requires that divine grace be concretely manifested in nature. Accordingly, the church as the body of Jesus Christ cannot be some invisible, spiritual, intangible entity; on the contrary, it must be a visible, material, concrete reality—the Catholic Church.

"The Christ-Church interconnection means that the Catholic Church is the extension of the incarnation of the ascended Christ. To be specific, the Catholic Church concretely mediates divine grace to (human) nature so as to be the universal and only means of salvation." from **Roman Catholic Theology and Practice: An Evangelical Assessment** by Gregg R. Allison.

What do Catholics think the One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church is?

- One = Creed – Liturgy – Apostolic succession
- Holy = Saints
- Catholic = Concentric circles
- Apostolic = Apostles plus successors of Peter. Spirit vs Christ Church interconnection

Structure of the Church – Clergy – Laity – Religious. All have different prophet priest and king roles.

Mary the Mother of the Church.

What elements of the way Catholics think about church are barriers to them hearing the Gospel?

Are there ways to get around these?

What are some of the ways, understanding what a Catholic thinks Christian gatherings are about would you take into consideration when you are planning your own gathering? What might you affirm in the aesthetics, liturgy and preaching, what would you seek to correct?