

## “WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE: CATHOLICISM ”

### I. HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

- Movement within Judaism
- Rise of the church at Rome
- For key words:  
ONE:  
HOLY:  
CATHOLIC:  
APOSTOLIC:
- Conversion of Constantine (312 A. D.)
- Rise of the church as a social and political institution (medieval era)
- Split between the Western Latin Church (Roman Catholic Church) and the Eastern Greek Church (the Orthodox Church) in 1054.
- The Protestant Reformation (16th century)

### II. THE DYNAMICS OF THE REFORMATION

#### 1. The Authority of Scripture

*“But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God’s way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.”* 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NLT)

### 2. Faith and Grace

*“Since we’ve compiled this long and sorry record as sinners ... And proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we’re in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear... God does not respond to what we do; we respond to what God does.”*

*Romans 3:23-28 (TM)*

Two Plans:

- Jesus plus nothing.  
(Protestant)
- Jesus plus something.  
(Roman Catholic)

### III. WHAT PROTESTANTS CAN LEARN FROM CATHOLICS

- Sacraments
- Global Presence/Responsibility
- Social Ministry

### IV. WHAT CATHOLICS CAN LEARN FROM PROTESTANTS

- Salvation is Jesus plus nothing
- The Bible is the ultimate authority and it can be part of our life.
- The nature of a personal relationship with Jesus.

### V. THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING