

Is One Church as Good as Another?

Some maintain that all the Christian Churches are parts forming between them the one great universal and catholic Church.

If that were so, they credit Christ with having established a very peculiar kind of Church to teach in His name. For if every Church which professes to be Christian is part of the one true Church, then this Church of Christ teaches simultaneously that Baptism is necessary for salvation, and that it is not necessary; that infants must be baptized, and that they must not be baptized; that the Pope is antichrist, and yet he is the Vicar of Christ; that Confession is an obligation, and yet it is an abomination; that Christ is really present in the Eucharist, but at the same time is really absent. It is impossible to believe that Christ, Truth itself, and infinite Wisdom, taught such contradictory doctrines and obligations.

If Christ came to earth today, would He not bless all the Christian churches, despite their doctrinal differences? **No.** Remember that Jesus said, "I am the Truth." Truth excludes error. He founded His Church and said, "If a man will not hear the Church, let him be as a heathen"(Matthew 18:17). That does not sound much like a blessing. Again He said to His Apostles, "He who despises you despises Me; and he who despises Me, despises Him that sent Me" (Luke 10:16). Also, "He that is not with Me is against Me" (Matthew 12:30). If it is true that Sunday should be observed by Christians, would He have a blessing for the church which still insists on the Jewish Saturday? If He is really present in the Blessed Eucharist, would He be equally pleased with the doctrine of those who deny His presence there? He would say, "I do not blame those who are mistaken through no fault of their own, but I object to doctrines which deny the truth I revealed to mankind. And I cannot bless organizations devoted to the diffusion of error."

Source: Frs Rumble and Carty, *Radio Replies*, TAN Books, 1979 edition (original copyright 1942)