# APOLOGETICS MADE EASY
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## <u>UNITY</u>

We often hear the expression that, for Christians, "It doesn't matter what church you go to. We all believe in the same God. We all believe in Jesus." What does the Bible say about the need for unity among Christians, given the fact that there are reportedly over 20,000 different denominations of protestant Christians?

The strongest statement about unity in the Bible comes from the lips of Jesus in John 17:20-21:  "I pray… **that they may all be one**, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that **they also may be in us**, that the world may believe that you sent me." Lack of unity among Christians will cause the rest of the world not to believe in Christ.  Why should non-Christians take Christianity seriously when Christians themselves are so divided?

At 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, Paul appeals for unity in very strong language: "I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. It has been reported to me…that there are rivalries among you. I mean that each of you is saying, 'I belong to Paul,' or 'I belong to Apollos,' or 'I belong to Kephas,' or 'I belong to Christ.' Is Christ divided?"

We Catholics should pray in earnest for unity among Christians. At the same time, we have to acknowledge that this unity is to be found in the Catholic Church. As Christians who have embraced the fullness of faith in Jesus Christ, our unity in the Catholic Church can be explained by paraphrasing the words of Saint Peter, "Master, where else would we go?"