



# WHAT IS THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH?

## PART 1 - INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

### **Introduction**

Purposes of this study:

- Ultimately, a way to \_\_\_\_\_ our understanding of \_\_\_\_\_ Christian doctrine and beliefs
- Provide the \_\_\_\_\_ on which we can “test everything; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21)
- \_\_\_\_\_ the truth claims and usage of language regarding the faith

- Gain an understanding of one of the largest religious groups in the world

<b><u>World Demographics</u></b> <b><u>(8 billion people)</u></b>		<b><u>US Demographics</u></b> <b><u>(340.1 million people)</u></b>	
<b><u>Religion</u></b>	<b><u>Adherents</u></b>	<b><u>Religion</u></b>	<b><u>Adherents</u></b>
Roman Catholicism	1.4 billion	Roman Catholicism	64.6 million (19%)
Remainder of what is considered "Christian"	1.1 billion	Evangelical Christianity	78.2 million (23%)
Islam	1.9 billion	Mainline Christianity	37.4 million (11%)
Hinduism	1.2 billion	Historic Black Protestant	17 million (5%)
Buddhism	0.5 billion	Jewish	6.8 million (2%)
Folk religions	0.4 billion	Muslim	3.4 million (1%)
Irreligious	0.75 billion	Buddhist	3.4 million (1%)
		Hindu	3.4 million (1%)
		Irreligious	98.6 million (29%)

- Answer the questions:
  - Would we consider Roman Catholicism to be biblical Christianity (that is, would we consider a Roman Catholic to be a brother or sister in Christ)?
  - If not, what kind of partnerships can we have and remain faithful to our convictions and our mission (advancing the Kingdom of God)?

## **Historical Overview**

- 1<sup>st</sup> century Church
- Periods of official persecution
- Rise of Constantine and establishment of state religion

- Middle Ages
- The Great Schism of 1054
- The seeds of the Reformation
- The Reformation and Counter-Reformation
- The decline of papal authority
- Modern Roman Catholicism