

# Alpha

# 2024



# What About the Church?



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**C** hrist the Head

**H** oly Spirit indwelled

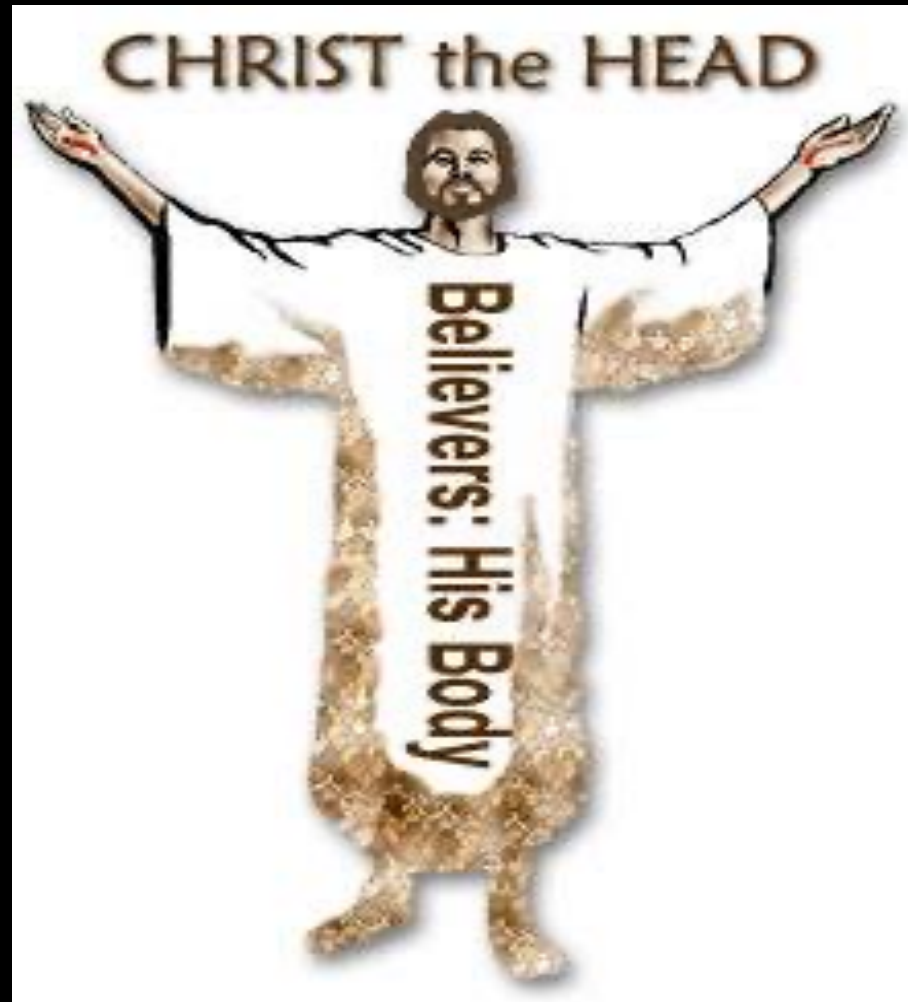
**U** nity of His people, we are His Body - Ekklesia

**R** econciling the world to Himself through His Body

**C** onforming and configure us into His image

**H** ope of the world - proclaiming the Good News

# Christ - the Head of the Church



# Jesus - the Head of the Church

## The Supremacy of the Son of God

**And he is the head of the body, the Church;** he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:15-20

# Holy Spirit - Indwells the Church

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."*      1 Peter 1:9-10

## The Sacraments

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- Penance
- Anointing of the sick
- Holy Orders
- Marriage

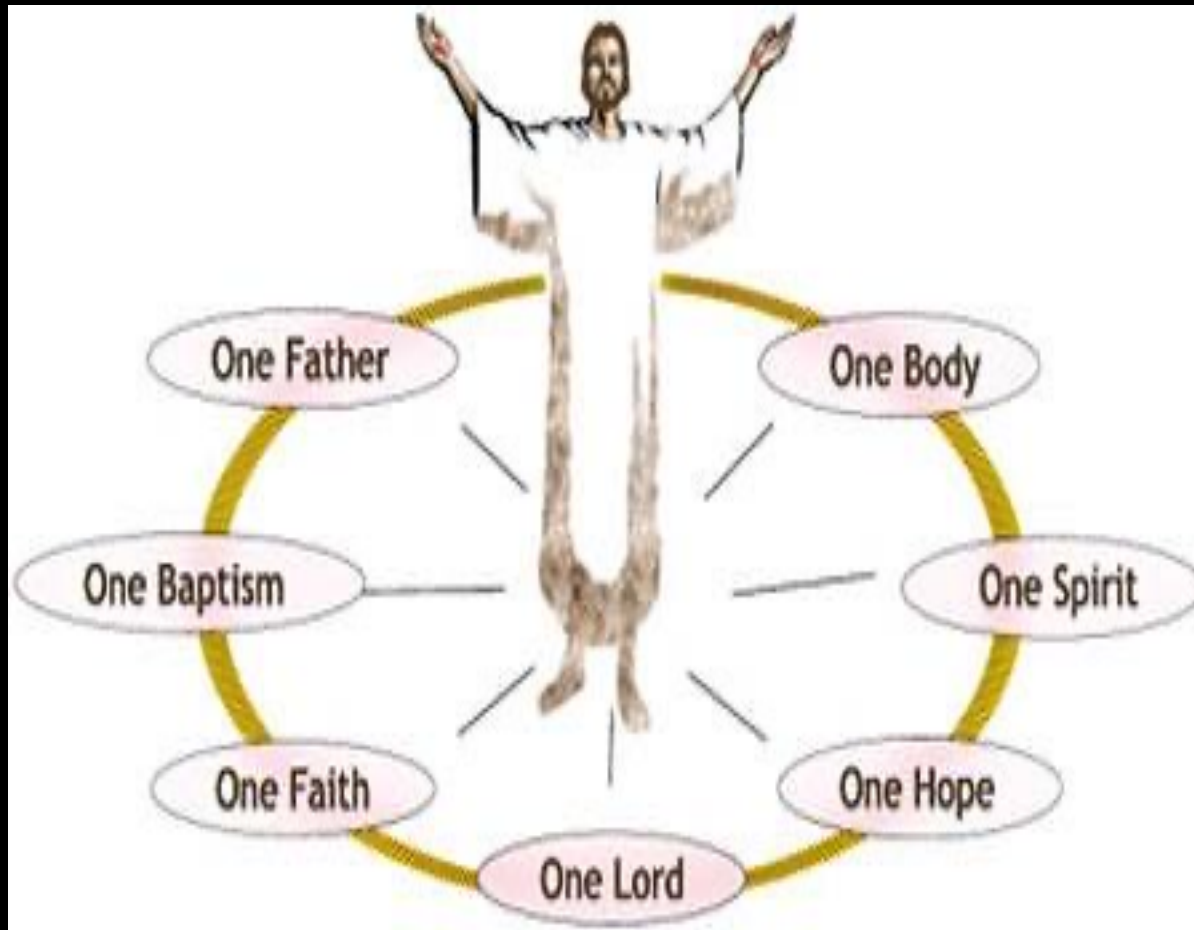




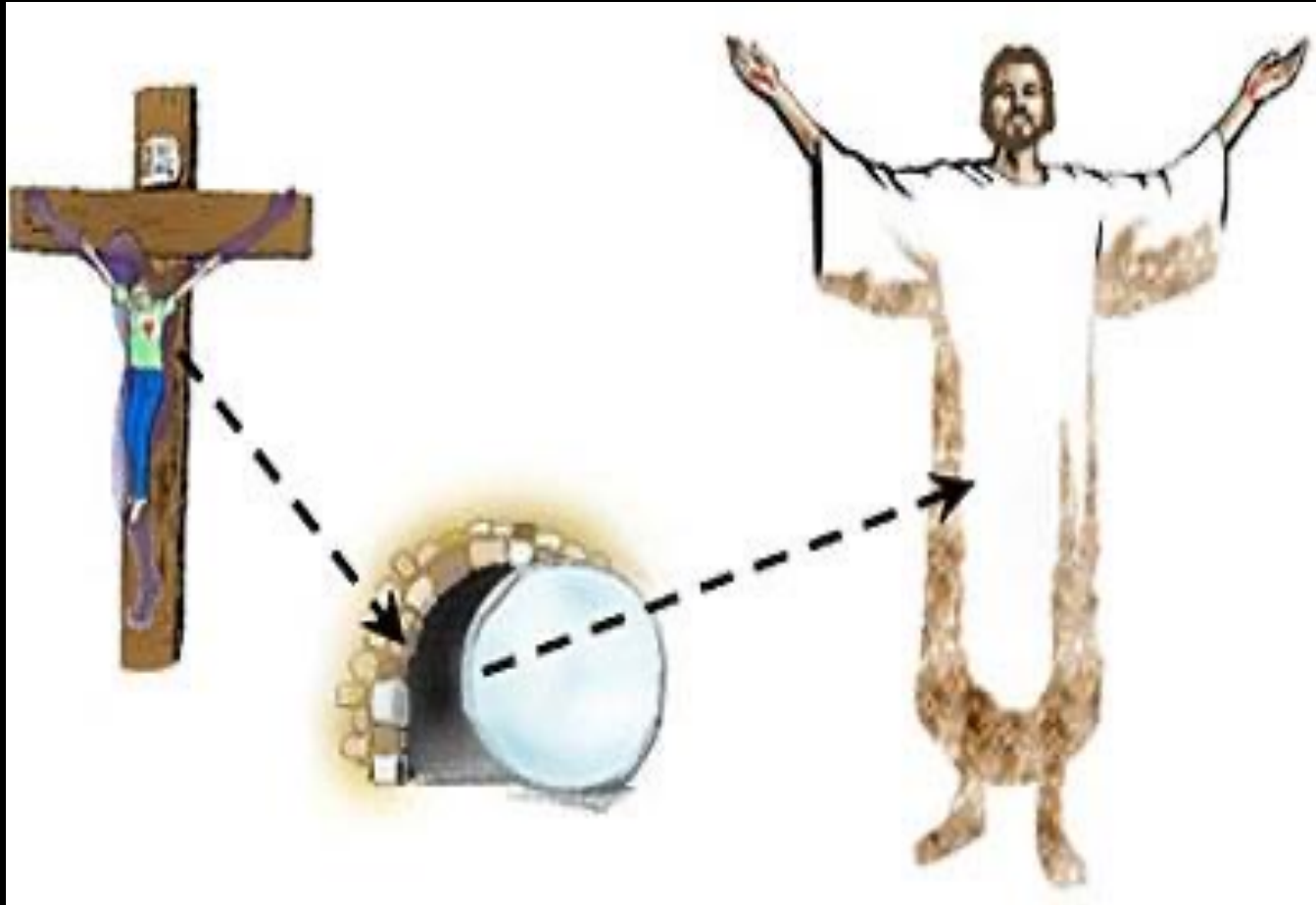
# Unity – Jesus Unifies His followers into a Church

*"There is one Body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*

Ephesians 4:4-6



# Reconciles – Jesus is reconciling the world to Himself through His body, the Church







## Jesus is reconciling both sinners and saints to Himself

To be connected with the church is to be associated with scoundrels, warmongers, fakes, child-molesters, murderers, adulterers, and hypocrites of every description. It also, at the same time, identifies you with saints and the finest persons of heroic soul within every time, country, race, and gender. To be a member of the church is to carry the mantle of both the worst sin and the finest heroism of soul...because the church always looks exactly as it looked at the original crucifixion, God hung among thieves.

-- Fr. Ronald Rolheiser







## **We, the Church, Amabassadors of Reconciliation**

*"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."*

2 Corinthians 5:16-20



# Conforming – Jesus is configuring us into His likeness through His body, the Church



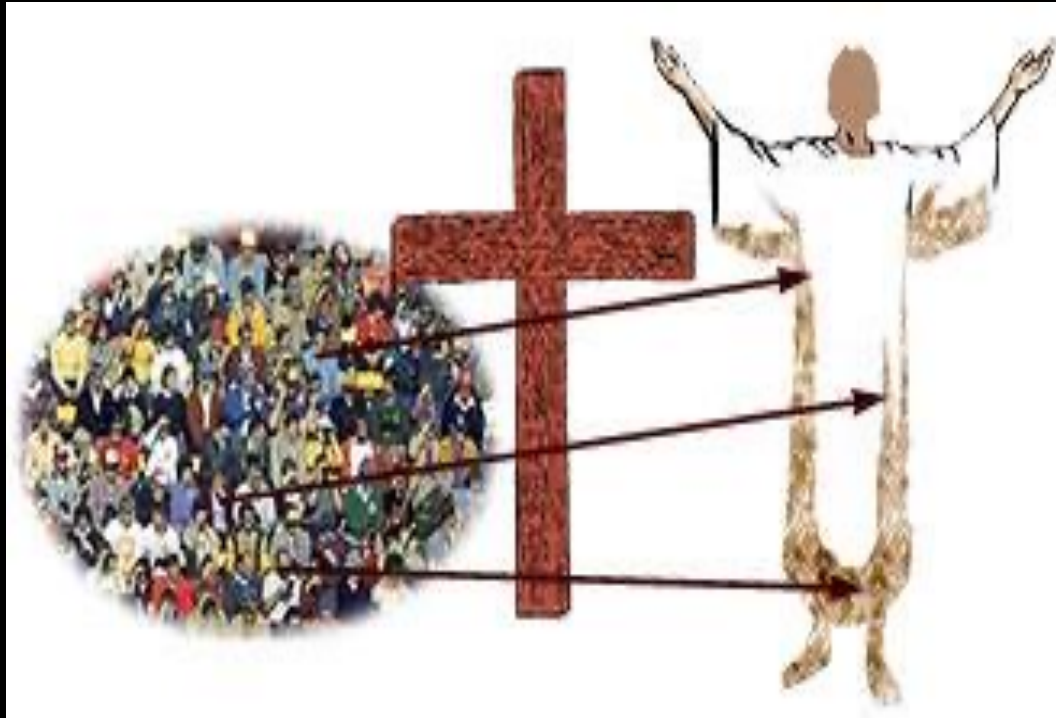
*"Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."*

2 Peter 2:14

# Hope – Jesus is the hope of the world, the promise of a future through His Church

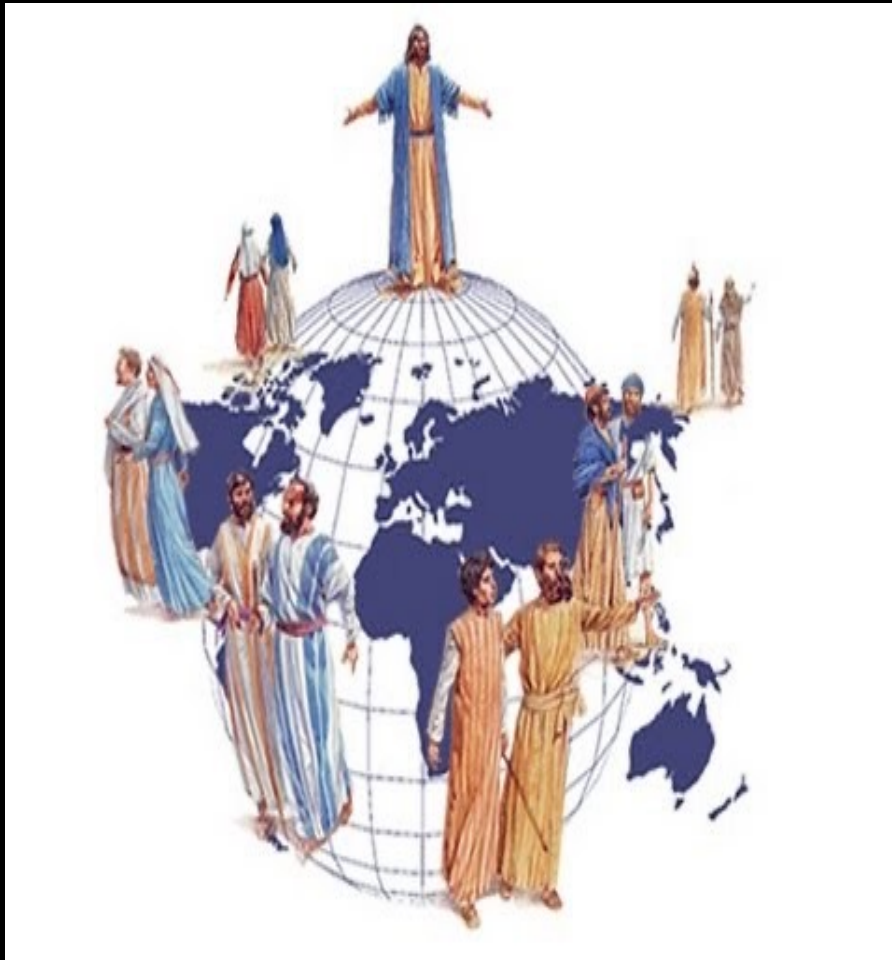
*“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that is within you. But do this with gentleness and respect.”*

*1 Peter 3:15*





# The Holy Church = Followers in Community



**Christ the Head**  
**Holy Spirit indwelled**  
**Unifying people**  
**Reconciling the world to Himself**  
**Conforming us into His image**  
**Hope of heaven and the world**

# “One, Holy, Apostolic, Catholic Church”

## *Questions for Reflection/Discussion*

- What are your key takeaways from this talk?
- What are the most appealing aspects of the Church? The most challenging?
- What are your thoughts about the differences between an association or affiliation of people vs. the Church?
- What are the obstacles to unity within the world? Within the Church?
- The Scripture states that “the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church”. Discuss the resiliency of the Church over the centuries, the good and the bad.
- What steps can you take individually, or with the support of others, to be a more faithful member of the Church?