

571 Long Acre Road
Palmyra, VA 22963
November 18, 2003

Dear Editor:

Reformation Sunday is still celebrated in some churches but most Christians have no idea what the date is and just what it is about.

What I remembered is that Martin Luther made a list of proposed reforms for the Church.

At that time, these proposed reforms were not well received so Luther left the Catholic Church and formed the Lutheran Church.

After Luther "broke the ice", other groups also broke from the Catholic Church to form their own individual Church denominations.

Over the past 500 years from Luther's initial break, the various groups who decided to separate from the Catholic Church and form their own churches and denominations have since separate from themselves time and time again so that now there are so many separate churches that even Fluvanna County has 23 separate Baptist churches, let alone those of other denominations.

It seems to me that it is time to bring back the unity that existed before the Reformation. My thinking was to look at Luther's list and see whether these reforms that were not made at that time were ever acted upon during the following 500 years.

If those reforms were made, what reason do we now have in having so many separate denominations? Would it not now be time to re-unite with the Catholic Church which is the common root of all the separate denominations?

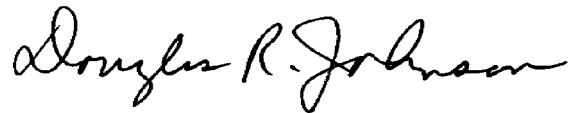
Most doctrinal differences between these separate entities can be traced to different interpretations of Scripture which, according to the principles of the Reformation, is the rule of faith and morals.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) has well over 2500 specific items clarifying the orthodox position on the various difference between the separated Christian Churches. This CCC also details and expands upon every one of the ten commandments, every word of the Apostles' Creed, and every word of the Lord's Prayer.

I would propose a comparison with one's own belief and statement of faith of one's present church with the official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. If a particular Scriptural passage could be reasonably interpreted more than one way, why choose a way different from the orthodox one just to be different?

While total unity may just be a dream, we certainly could increase our fellowship especially when we Christians all consider the Bible to be the infallible rule for faith and morals.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas R. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'J'.

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