

Sigtuna, Sweden 2016-09-28

This letter has been sent to the pastors in the Swedish free church denominations. This is a translation to the best ability from the Swedish original.

## Open letter regarding Pope Francis' visit to Sweden in October 2016

### Is the protest over?

This letter is written on the occasion of Pope Francis' planned visit to Sweden. The Catholic Diocese of Stockholm writes on their website: *"The Holy Father will visit Lund on October 31st 2016. The historic visit takes place due to joint Ecumenical Commemoration of the Reformation.*

*The Commemoration on October 31 is arranged by Lutheran World Federation and the Vatican. Local hosts are the Swedish Lutheran Church together with the Catholic church in Sweden and the Swedish Christian Council."*<sup>1</sup>

Let us pause and face the unexpected - the Pope will visit and attend the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's *"Ninety-five Theses"*. It is a controversial stance, that would have been directly unthinkable just a few decades ago. Even among the Pope's closest men there is resistance, including Cardinal Gerhard Müller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which said the following in the Catholic newspaper Catholic Herald in March 2016: *"Reformation is nothing to celebrate"* and that *"Catholics cannot accept that there exist sufficient reasons to separate from the Church"*<sup>2</sup>

There are also critical voices from the Lutherans against this gathering, that also recognizes 50 years of Lutheran-Catholic dialogue. Of course, there are also a great number of positive voices from the representatives of the Lutheran movement, such as Dr. Martin Junge, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, who says: *"I'm carried by the profound conviction that by working towards reconciliation between Lutherans and Catholics, we are working towards justice, peace and reconciliation in a world torn apart by conflict and violence."*<sup>3</sup>

Let us take a step back and reflect on this event. From both Lutheran and Catholic contexts, there are a vast number of representatives that embraces the joint efforts. The key question is therefore - **where does the dialogue between these two parties lead?**

Pope Francis, like his predecessor, is very clear.

*"There are those who believe they can maintain a personal, direct and immediate relationship with Jesus Christ outside the communion and the mediation of the Church. These are dangerous and harmful temptations. These are, as the great Paul VI said, absurd dichotomies."*

Pope Francis, General audience, 25 June 2014<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.katolskkyrkan.se/the-papal-visit>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/03/31/reformation-is-nothing-to-celebrate-says-cardinal-muller>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.lutheranworld.org/news/press-release-joint-ecumenical-commemoration-reformation-lund>

<sup>4</sup> [https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2014/documents/papa-francesco\\_20140625\\_udienza-generale.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2014/documents/papa-francesco_20140625_udienza-generale.html)

<sup>5</sup> Watch a video clip of the sermon here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmjAjrIrE10>

This statement is not controversial in itself – The Catholic church has for centuries claimed that they mediate the salvation, and that there is no salvation outside the Catholic church. It is not this statement that is controversial.

*"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people."*

1 Timothy 2:5-6

The controversial part is that Protestant churches, both at local, national and international levels is approaching the Catholic church. These churches were built on the dogma that all people may experience a personal and direct relationship with Jesus Christ, by asking for forgiveness of sins. Our faith is not based on a religious system, on certain methods or traditions. The great dividing line is that they follow a religious system that is built around Jesus, but our faith is based on a direct relationship with Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).

This statement is in itself enough for us as Christians to completely distance ourselves from the Catholic doctrine and its representatives. I myself have a personal relationship with Jesus and plan to continue with it even though it would be impossible according to the Catholic faith. Pope Francis says further that *"you cannot love God outside of the Church"*.<sup>4</sup>

The Pope's message, both the indirect message he sends by attending the commemoration, and the direct message of his words will conclude that "There needs to be no further protest, we can now unite under a common Church. The protest is over."

From the Catholic side, the motive for the ecumenical efforts are clear - they want to incorporate the Protestant churches into the Catholic church, or at least convert their members. But we are not uniting under the Catholic church, and do not intend to. There is a wide range of key Catholic beliefs that we as Protestants cannot accept, including the view on:

- Papacy
- The Pope's infallibility
- Worship of saints
- Icons
- Catholic sacraments
- The new view on unity and ecumenism
- Mary's position
- Infant baptism
- Purgatory
- Rome's authority
- Et cetera

Furthermore, other central tenets are that the Catholic church is the voice of God on earth, that priests can convey forgiveness of sins and that the Pope is the Lord's vicar and all Christians' supreme leader on earth. The Pope is, according to the Catholic church, heir of Peter's chair and his immediate successor. The Catholic church writes the following about their sources of faith:

*"The Catholic faith is based on the Bible, the tradition, the Church's faith confession and teaching through 2000 years, her worship and liturgy."*  
The Catholic Diocese of Stockholm <sup>6</sup>

It is one of the main reasons that we cannot accept the Catholic belief, or remain passive in relation to the influence that the Pope has.

The Catholic church mediates salvation under its Masses and during confession in connection with prayer for forgiveness. This is in contrast to the Bible on who mediates salvation and forgiveness.

During confession the priest mediates the forgiveness of sins, according to the Catholic church, and gives, for example, a task to pray the Lord's Prayer a certain number of times and Hail Mary a certain number of times. Hail Mary is one of the most important prayers within Catholicism and has been prayed for many centuries.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.*

The forgiveness and salvation does not lie in the words or deeds! It begins in the heart. If you pray the prayers 90% of the number that the priest calls for - are you then 90% forgiven? Or 0% forgiven?

Many books have been written about the differences between the Catholic faith and the classical Christian faith. They usually come to the conclusion that they differ greatly from each other and that much within the Catholic church is not based on the Bible but on pagan rites, which later was taken over. By studying the Bible, one can see a long list of dogmas that gives warning flags in Catholicism.

I see it primarily from a completely different perspective. I agree that one can come up with a long list of differences between our faith and the Catholic faith. When *The Jesus movement* came to Sweden, Lewi Pethrus was asked about his opinion on the movement. He said that he would share his opinion at a later occasion. After that, he visited them, talked with their leaders and finally gave the answer that he was supporting them as he recognized their spirit. The spirit within the Catholic church and the spirit in me that has received salvation, means that I do not submit to the Catholic beliefs. The Catholic church has many similarities with contemporary Pharisees and scribes (hereby referred to as only "Pharisees"). The Pharisees were scribes and very familiar with the Old Testament. But Jesus did not attack any other group in the way that he did against the Pharisees.

What separated them was that Jesus had a relationship with the Father. They had a relationship with the religion, to which they added their own statutes and regulations, just as the Catholic church has

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.katolskakyrkan.se/katolska-kyrkan-i-sverige/katolska-kyrkan-en-snabbkurs>

done for centuries. The group who Jesus was toughest against was the Pharisees, the Catholics of that time, who wanted to have a form of godliness but denied its power. The reason I take a clear stand against Catholicism is because it is a dead religion. I support a living relationship with Jesus.

Jesus attacked the Pharisees because they ordered people conditions and requirements that they could not follow. The religion they had was dead, although they read the same religious texts as Jesus, the Old Testament. The Pharisees did not want to feel the power of Jesus. Jesus still today heals people, casts out demons, heals marriages and changes people's lives, but the Catholic church has only built rituals around the Christian faith and its own liturgy, but has no power of the gospel.

*"...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - having a form of godliness but denying its power. **Have nothing to do with such people.**"*

2 Timothy 3:4-5

### **Conclusion of this section**

Most religions include Jesus in some way - as a prophet, guru or something else, but it is not the same Jesus who has saved me. When the Pope simply said that it is not possible to have a direct relationship with Jesus Christ, and also that it is directly dangerous, I can conclude that neither the Catholic church preaches the same Jesus that I believe in and have a direct relationship with as my Lord and Savior.

### **Who is the prostitute in the Bible?**

At a first glance, it is possible to confuse the picture of a bride and the picture of a prostitute. Both concepts must be seen in light of Biblical vocabulary. The two are not dissimilar - like comparing a bride with a car. When the Bible talks about the concepts of the bride and the prostitute, there is in both cases a symbolism to a woman. The bride is sacred, secluded and dedicated to a person. The prostitute symbolizes that she is available to everyone and without loyalty to anyone. One of them is open to all, the other is closed to all but Christ.

When the Bible speaks of the bride and the prostitute, it is in terms of the Holy Bride and the great prostitute. The nature of the prostitute violates the Bible verses where God commands us to *"...have no other gods before me"* and Jesus' claim to be *"the way and the truth and the life"*.

The Bible speaks of the prostitute in a number of places, including Revelation chapters 17-18. A historically common interpretation of who or what is described here as the prostitute is the Catholic church. This has been a common interpretation for centuries, and is shared amongst others by the following reformers, theologians and philosophers, to name a few:

- *John Wycliffe (1324-1384)*
- *John Huss (cirka 1371-1415)*
- *Martin Luther (1483-1546)*
- *John Calvin (1509-1564)*
- *Philip Melancthon (1497-1560)*
- *John Knox (cirka 1514-1572)*
- *William Tyndale (1494-1536)*
- *John (1703-1791) and Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

Many of the Protestant denominations also included this in their creed writings. Before the Reformation of the 16th century, this view even occurred among some prominent Catholics.

In Revelation 17-18, we read the following:

*"With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries... The name written on her forehead was a mystery: Babylon the great, the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth... I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished... The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages... Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a dwelling for demons... **Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues.**"*

The Catholics and the Muslims have, independently from each other, but overall persecuted and killed more Jews and Christians than any other religion. This has occurred not least during the period of the Inquisition and onwards.

The Catholic church has a hostile history towards Jews and Christians, that also includes persecution. The Vatican is not only the center of the Catholic faith, but is also a state apparatus, where the Pope is the head of state. The first non-Muslim state which had a diplomatic dialogue with Yasser Arafat was the Vatican. The modern Israel was declared in May 1948, but it was as late as 1993 that formal diplomatic relations were established with the Vatican. As for the recognition of Palestine, Sweden was, second to Iceland, among the first Western countries to recognize Palestine (for which we must ask God for forgiveness). Then followed the Vatican whose recognition came into force in 2016. The Vatican has always had a negative attitude towards Jews. The Muslim expression "*First the Saturday people; then the Sunday people.*"<sup>7</sup> can definitely also be endorsed by the Catholic church.

The Vatican<sup>8</sup> is an independent micro-state located as an enclave in the Italian capital Rome. Vatican City was established in 1929 by the Lateran Treaty, which gave the Pope and the leadership of the Roman Catholic church independence. The Pope has his office as supreme leader of the Church in that he represents the Holy See, an international legal personality distinct from Vatican City. It is by the Holy See that the Church maintains diplomatic relations with other states and international organizations. Vatican's main function is to assure the independence of the Holy See so that the Pope and the Roman Catholic church should not be dependent on any other earthly power, in the way it had been before 1929.<sup>9</sup>

Institute for the Works of Religion, commonly referred to as the Vatican bank,<sup>10</sup> was founded in 1942 and its role is to protect and manage the property for religious and philanthropic purposes. The bank is headed by a president but also overseen by five cardinals who report directly to the Vatican and the Vatican Secretary of State. Great mystery surrounds the bank and its daily activities, which is why it is often called "the world's most secret bank." Institute for the Works of Religion has been accused of money laundering and one of its leaders, Monsignor Nunzio Scarano, is charged with this crime.<sup>11</sup> The Vatican is not only the seat of a religion, but is also a nation with a strong political organization and financial resources behind them. In this capacity, it has historically controlled kings, other

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<sup>7</sup> Even if Yasser Arafat is not the author of the quote, he was famous for it. It is something that has been done in e.g. Bethlehem.

<sup>8</sup> (Latin: Status Civitatis Vaticanae; Italian: Stato della Città del Vaticano)

<sup>9</sup> <https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatikanstaten>

<sup>10</sup> Formally Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR)

<sup>11</sup> <https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatikanbanken>

countries and exercised an amazing power over many other countries, which The Book of Revelation also speaks of.

### Conclusion of this section

The Catholic church should be defined as "*the mother of prostitutes on the earth*" and "*the great prostitute*" as the ecumenical church<sup>12</sup> in the last days with the Pope as supreme leader.<sup>13</sup>

### The Catholic church indicates that all roads lead to Rome

Mother Teresa was canonized on the 4 September 2016. She did a fantastic job of helping Dalits, the poor and hungry in India. For that task, she is worth a great tribute. But it is also interesting to study her theological position.

Mother Teresa founded the charity organization Missionaries of Charity in 1950. In 1984, one of her associates, Sister Ann, was interviewed. Mother Teresa, and her organization has a syncretic position and believe that one could find God in different religions.

- *I asked, "Do you believe if the Hindus die believing in Shiva or Ram they will go to heaven."*
- *Ann replied: "Yes, that is their faith. My own faith will lead me to my God, no? So if they have believed in their god very strongly, if they have faith, surely they will be saved."*
- *I asked, "You do not believe they are lost, right?"*
- *Ann replied: "No, they are not lost. They are saved according to their faith. If they believe whatever they believe that is their salvation."<sup>14</sup>*

Towards the end of Mother Teresa's life, she was asked a straight question from her friend Naveen Chawla, who later wrote her biography.

- *Naveen Chawla: "Do you convert?"*
- *Moder Teresa: "Of course I convert. I convert you to be a better Hindu or a better Muslim or a better Protestant. Once you've found God, it's up to you to decide how to worship him"<sup>15</sup>*

These comments speak very clear language in themselves, and represents the faith that Mother Teresa had.

*"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."* Acts 4:12

During a speech in 2005, Pope Benedict XVI opened up even to people who lack biblical faith to be saved, provided that they seek peace and the good of the community with a pure conscience. Obviously this is an extraordinary position, and is in direct contrast to the Bible's simple but clear criteria for salvation: "*If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*"<sup>16</sup>

*"Whoever seeks peace and the good of the community with a pure conscience, and keeps alive the desire for the transcendent, will be saved even if he lacks biblical faith"*  
Pope Benedict XVI, General audience 30 November 2005<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> in cooperation with all other religions, excluding Bible-believing Christians and Messianic Jews

<sup>13</sup> For those who find it difficult to understand or grasp this, or wish to dig deeper, I refer to the book "The Great Prostitute" (Swedish: Den stora Skökan by Lars Enarsson. Inspiration of this letter has in some respects been taken from this book.

<http://arielmedia.tictail.com/products/böcker>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.wayoflife.org/database/motherteresafalsehope.html>

<sup>15</sup> "Mother Teresa Touched other Faiths" from Associated Press 7 September 1997.

<sup>16</sup> Romans 10:9

<sup>17</sup> <https://zenit.org/articles/nonbelievers-too-can-be-saved-says-Pope/>

It should be obvious to all that the Catholic church is open to any kind of religion. It even canonizes people with syncretic view. The Catholic church has expressed itself clearly on this position, especially in favor of Muslims (see [www.obadjamedia.se/letters](http://www.obadjamedia.se/letters) and quotes from the Catechism below).

*"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."*

*Exodus 20:2-3*

In the first of the Ten Commandments, God commands us to have no other gods beside him. We should not pray to other gods. For the Vatican, inter-religious dialogue has for long been an important area. On a number of occasions, the Vatican has invited representatives of other religions to hold joint meetings, including other religious representatives praying to their god. The Vatican is also one of the co-founders of the organization KAICIID whose purpose is to promote inter-religious dialogue. The Vatican also has its own Cardinal Kurt Koch, responsible for and working with the Vatican's ecumenical relations.

*"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

*John 14:6*

### **Conclusion of this section**

The Catechism teaches that Muslims, who share the Abrahamic faith, is also part of God's plan of salvation.

*"The Church's relationship with the Muslims. "The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day."*

*Catechism of the Catholic church, 841*

This doctrine should be entirely foreign in every way for every faithful Bible-believing Christian. On this basis, the saying "All roads lead to Rome" is not only a cultural and political proverb, but also a religious truth. It does not seem to be the forgiveness of sins and receiving of Jesus as Savior that is the decisive factor, but to seek God out of a more general concept than the Bible teaches, and in addition be a good person. The openness for syncretism further proves the conclusions already reached above that "the Catholic church should be defined as "the mother of prostitutes on the earth" and "the great prostitute" as the ecumenical church in the last days with the Pope as supreme leader."

### **Christian Council of Sweden (CCS) and Charta Oecumenica**

In addition to the Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic church, CCS is also partaking in inviting the Pope to Sweden. Let us find out what they stand for and who is included.

CCS has been active since 1992. The annual meeting is CCS' highest governing body. At the annual meeting, all member churches are represented in proportion to its size. The annual meeting consists of over 60 members. SKR consists of an association of most churches that are active in Sweden categorized in four church families:

- 4 churches of the Lutheran church family
- 6 churches from the Free church family:
  - o Evangelical Free Church in Sweden
  - o Salvation Army
  - o Eumenia
  - o The Pentecostal Movement
  - o The Swedish Alliance Mission
  - o Vineyard Norden
  - o (The Seventh Day Adventist Church is observer)
- 1 church from the Catholic church family
- 14 churches from the Orthodox / Eastern church family

During 2001, the Swedish translation of Charta Oecumenica was presented by CCS, a document that has emerged in a broad process in churches throughout Europe. The Swedish translation was signed by the Head of Mission in the Swedish Mission Covenant Church, the Swedish Church Archbishop, the Auxiliary Bishop of The Catholic Diocese of Stockholm and the bishop at the Serbian Orthodox Church. The document is shared by Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans and Reformed. Charta Oecumenica contains 26 commitments that all the churches in Europe are invited to adopt so that "one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church" is going to be visible. The word Catholic is used here to symbolize "the universal character of the Church."

The following sentences are quotes from Charta Oecumenica:

- *"To discuss our plans for evangelization with other churches,"*
- *"In the power of the Holy Spirit, to work towards the visible unity of the Church of Jesus Christ in the one faith, expressed in the mutual recognition of baptism and in eucharistic fellowship, as well as in common witness and service."*
- *"It is important to acknowledge the spiritual riches of the different Christian traditions, to learn from one another and so to receive these gifts."*
- *"In order to deepen ecumenical fellowship, endeavors to reach a consensus in faith must be continued at all cost. Only in this way can church communion be given a theological foundation."*
- *"We would like to intensify encounters between Christians and Muslims and enhance Christian-Islamic dialogue at all levels."*

The fact that the various free churches recognize each other's baptism and communion is not particularly noteworthy. In contrast, the fact that the Catholic church undertakes to accept the baptisms and communion in Lutheran and free churches is surprising. Is it really consistent with the reality that the Catholic church goes in this direction, or is it an ecumenical cover to get the other churches closer to the Catholic church?

It is, as mentioned earlier, a common interpretation that it is the Catholic church that is referred to when the Bible speaks of the prostitute. By accepting this type of document, CCS ties their own hands and let the heresy into its member churches. How then should we deal with the Catholic church? Having a dialogue, discuss and accept them? Revelation chapter 18, speaking of the fall of Babylon, gives a clear instruction: "**Come out of her...**". The task that Jesus has given His church is not



consistent with the work CCS carries and stands for. They really just open up the door for heresies and other religions, especially Catholicism and Islam<sup>18</sup>.

In today's society, it is popular to advocate dialogue and mutual understanding. It is common in all contexts, and in many cases in the community it solves conflicts and is a good way forward. The Bible does not give us these instructions when it comes to how we should relate to other religions. Jesus himself repudiated the Pharisees with utmost clarity.

It is dangerous with constellations based on the principle of the lowest common denominator. It takes the edge off everything - and the gospel is anything but edgeless.

When the disciples asked Jesus about the sign of His coming, and the end of this age, he answered:

*"Jesus answered: Watch out that no one deceives you."*

Matthew 24:4

Religious movements like Hare Krishna deceives no Christian, as it is too far away from our faith. In many contexts, the most misleading thing is located close to the truth, but differ on the essential key points. The Catholic church is similar in many respects, but the underlying belief makes it a prostitute and not a bride.

When Jesus revealed himself to John on the island Patmos, he described seven churches (Revelation Chapters 2-3). He talked about potential risks, opportunities and characteristics of the respective church. The last church mentioned in Revelation is Laodicea, who also symbolizes the church in the last days. He warns this church, and says:

*"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold - I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked."*

Revelation 3:15-17

The church said that they were rich, as is the case in particular with the Catholic church, but also to a large extent other Swedish churches and free churches. The church today is, in some ways, a big, lukewarm body. The reason that heresies can sneak into the free churches is because of lukewarmness and that we do not fully let the power of the gospel work. Many think that godliness sounds nice, but there are churches that more closely resembles Rotary clubs than churches, but had they been in Rotary, they would have been excluded because of passivity. That's exactly what stage you see in the church world today. Since many churches do not have salvation calls regularly, strong prayer and loyalty to the Word, they miss the power of the gospel, and therefore they also lack discernment. Consequently, the Catholic church's influence can penetrate deep into the free churches.

### **Conclusion of this section**

Personally, I have my roots within the Pentecostal movement, with an intermediate period of about four years in the Faith movement. It is with deep sadness I see that my leader's leaders in a hidden way, and not in the public light, open up for the delusion of the Catholic church. It makes me

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<sup>18</sup> For facts and evidence concerning this claim, please visit [www.obadjamedia.se/letters](http://www.obadjamedia.se/letters)

surprised, disappointed and gives a feeling of being betrayed. Because CCS is involved in the hosting of the Pope's visit to Sweden, I wish first of all, every free church denomination to leave CCS. If not, that your and my church leaves the Christian denomination that we operate in and become independent, from which then we can create new Bible faithful constellations together.

## **The Bride and her mission**

The main task of the church is to mediate salvation, based on the Great Commission. Any church that, at their gatherings, is not inviting to salvation has missed or not understood its task. Each time you gather in the church, there should be an opportunity for salvation.

Another main task of the church is prayer. Prayer can be divided into five different types:

- Personal prayer
- Prayer within the family (*"if you pray together you stay together"*)
- Prayer within the church management
- Prayer with the whole church regularly, preferably, for example once per month
- A special amassing prayer during extraordinary events

Prayer shall also meet a number of other important tasks, such as praying for the sick, release from demonic oppression, etc.

One of the other important tasks for the church is to teach the Word. There is indeed a need for a strengthening of the Reformation. The protest should be even higher in the current situation. We will stand up and definitely not bow to the Catholic church or to consider that the protest is over.

God's Word is completely central for us. We bow under the Bible, that is our guideline. It separates the bride and the prostitute. It separates us from liberal theological thoughts and other influences. When Peter Halldorf says that *"Mary is more important than the Bible"*<sup>19</sup>, I can only conclude that we no longer share the same faith.

*"Jesus answered, It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

Matthew 4:4

This Bible verse speaks in direct contrast to Peter Halldorf's words that *"Mary is more important than the Bible"*. They do not represent two different approaches to the word of God - it's not even the same faith. One is based on a relationship with Jesus based on his forgiveness, and the other comes from a following of the prostitute and a religion built around this for centuries.

One thing that Luther advocated was that the Bible should be translated into languages that people understand - not just Latin. The Catholic church has not been interested in educating people what the Word says. They have used language that ordinary people do not understand. The language issue was a major controversy in Luther's case, and his translation of the Bible into German, to make the Scriptures available for the people, led to his excommunication. It has not been of great importance for the Catholic church to teach biblical texts, but rather to teach rituals, traditions, sacraments and more. In our faith, our relationship with God is central, which you experience through prayer and by reading the Word. The Catholic church is opposing that laymen are reading directly from the Scriptures without guidance. Therefore, many Catholics read a lot about the Scriptures, such as the

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<sup>19</sup> <http://ekumeniskakommuniteten.se/fastebloggen/2015/08/14/ett-liv-med-gud>

Catechism. We Protestants believe that when we read, the Holy Spirit guides us to understand the Word, for edification, guidance, fellowship with God, and not least to partake in God's promises and walk in them. Before John Paul II's visit to Sweden in June 1989, Word of Life Church gathered in prayer and fasting for two days. Please see the attached document "*What does the Pope have to do in Uppsala?*" that was written by Ulf Ekman at the time. Back then, Word of Life had a large Bible school, and the students who came to Bible school was requested to settle with former sins. It could be anything from renouncing homosexuality, occultism - or Catholic faith. At that time, in June 1989, they took the responsibility for the whole country in prayer and broke the influence that the Pope brought. During the upcoming visit in October 2016, Word of Life will not make a call to prayer, as their position has changed radically, and now they relate positively to the Catholic church and some Catholic beliefs.

As Christians, we have our roots in the Old Testament, and we share that foundation with the Jews. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who has nothing in common with Islam's Allah. Our Christian roots does not originate from the church fathers, but from the Old Testament. From that position, we have a new and better covenant, through what Jesus accomplished on the cross of Calvary. That, and nothing else, is the cornerstone of our faith.

#### **Conclusion of this section**

Therefore, you as a Christian leader and profile in Sweden must take responsibility for this! Nowadays, since Word of Life does not call for prayer, it is therefore up to the rest of Christianity to pray against the Catholic, demonic influence that comes into the country from 31 October, 2016.

#### **Conclusion**

The well-known American evangelist and pastor David Wilkerson wrote in the book "The Vision" from 1973 as follows:

*"I see the rise of a super world church. I see the formation of a super world church council consisting of a union between liberal, ecumenical Protestants, and the Roman Catholic church joining politically hand-in-hand to create one of the most powerful religious forces on earth. This union is going to start as a cooperative charity program and it will end in a political union. This visible super world church is going to be spiritual in name only, freely using the name of Jesus Christ, but will in fact be antichrist and political in many of its activities. This powerful church union will be deeply involved in social action, tremendous charity programs, and ministries of compassion. Its leaders will make statements about meeting human needs. They will send out a call for social action, political intervention, and a greater voice in world affairs."*

This vision is now becoming true in front of us through the efforts of the Catholic church / the prostitute to try to pacify and pull people into the delusion they live in.

Our leader's leaders fail us and deceive us when they team up with the Catholic church, through CCS, which makes me incredibly sad and hurt. Moreover, I know that many of them support a rapprochement with the Catholic church or even syncretism. To be the salt of the darkness that Jesus calls us to be (Matthew 5:13), it does not assume that we are flawless, but that we are totally dependent on Jesus. By his death on the cross and his forgiveness, our sins have been blotted out and we have been justified.

During the writing of this letter, it has felt like when Elijah flees into the desert after the fight against the Baal prophets. Elijah felt in despair "*I am the only one left...*"<sup>20</sup> but the Lord let him know that "*...I reserve seven thousand in Israel - all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal*"<sup>21</sup>. I am fully aware that just as Elijah was not alone, I am not alone in this position. We must stand up and proclaim the gospel based on truth and grace, and pray for our country. Preaching only the truth makes us judgmental, and we must fully live in both truth and grace. The truth must go hand in hand with grace. There are things that are wrong and sinful, and we must call that sin with clarity. But there is always forgiveness. There is always a way for the Lord, and Jesus told us to go out and proclaim it. We must evangelize the Catholic church as well as Muslims, as they need salvation as any other unsaved person whatsoever.

Sweden's future does not depend on our politicians but on us Christians. We must be strong and persevering in our faith, and not be deceived by the many heresies that exist. We must take our mission seriously and constantly evangelize, but also pray and completely live from the Word, and the Word alone. When the disciples asked Jesus about what would be significant for the last days, the first thing Jesus said was that we should remain vigilant so that we would not be deceived. Catholicism is a delusion and its messengers happily evangelize within in the free churches and among other Christians, for it is an audience they want to deceive. When Jesus revealed how the church will be in the end times, which we live in, it was in the form of Laodicea. Many churches and Christians will be lukewarm, but it does not mean that your church joins that crowd - you can be passionate for Jesus! We know the end result, and that is that Jesus has already won victory on the cross of Calvary and in that victory we are called to walk.

This letter is available on our website in PDF format, in both Swedish and English, on [www.obadjamedia.se/brev](http://www.obadjamedia.se/brev) respective [www.obadjamedia.se/letters](http://www.obadjamedia.se/letters).

God bless you and your church!

Sincerely,



*Kjell-Roger Holmström*

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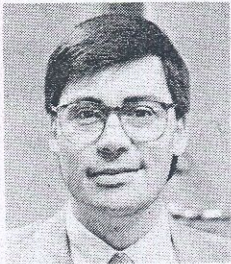
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<sup>20</sup> 1 Kungs 19:10

<sup>21</sup> 1 Kungs 19:18

Vad i hela världen har

# påven i Uppsala att göra?



Skandinavien rus-  
tar sig för påve-  
besök. För första  
gången i påvedö-  
mets historia be-  
söker en påve  
Sverige. Kom-  
mentarer i kristna  
tidningar och

dagspress är uppsluppet positiva. Man  
verkar känna sig smickrad av så cele-  
bert besök. Bland kristenheten verkar  
besöket ses som något positivt, inte  
minst med tanke på de böcker om  
påven som nu har kommit ut på  
kristna förlag.

Tre platser i Sverige skall besökas:  
Stockholm, med mässa i Globen, Vad-  
stena, där Sveriges enda katolska hel-  
gon verkade, och Uppsala.

Den katolske biskopen i Stockholm,  
uttalade sig i en intervju om nödvän-  
digheten av att påven besöker Uppsa-  
la. Självklart kan man tycka, eftersom  
ärkebiskopen, Nordens största dom-  
kyrka, en rad kyrkliga och frikyrkliga  
institutioner, en diger teologisk fakul-  
tet m m finns i Uppsala. Men det var  
inte detta den katolske biskopen an-  
förde som skäl, utan det faktum att det  
var i Uppsala, nämligen på Uppsala  
möte 1593, som Sverige blev ett  
evangeliskt-lutherskt land. Därför är  
det viktigt för påven att komma till  
Uppsala, enligt den katolske stock-  
holmsbiskopen.

Kurian i Rom har uttalat sig och sagt  
att påven inte kommer till Sverige som  
en slags Billy Graham på korståg, utan  
för att träffa sina trogna. Det må så  
vara, men varför då Uppsala. Jo, därför  
att före reformationen var Sverige ett  
katolskt land. Påvens överhöghet och  
makt sträckte sig långt upp, från Rom  
ända till Norden. Romersk-katolsk tro  
och praxis rädde över Sverige.

### Reformatöriska sanningar

Detta inflytande bröts i och med Lut-  
hers reformation som nådde Sverige

genom Olaus Petri. Den evangeliska  
läran stadfästes som Sveriges rikes tro i  
Uppsala, februari 1593. Man slog fast  
att, tvärt emot den katolska tron, skulle  
man hålla sig enbart till "Guds rena  
och saliggörande ord" och hålla sig till  
de grundläggande reformatöriska san-  
ningarna, såsom a) "skriften allena"  
b) "nåden allena" och c) "tron allena".  
Man tog skarpt avstånd från "alla de  
päviskas . . . villfarelser." Detta beslut  
ledde Sverige i en helt annan riktning,  
bort från påvedömetts överhöghet och  
katolsk gärningslära. Därför är det  
viktigt att påven kommer till Uppsala!

Påven har inte för en minut ändrat  
alla de grundläggande katolska dog-  
mer som den romerska kyrkan i århund-  
raden har bevarat. Inte heller har han  
ändrat på sin uppfattning om att vara  
ofelbar när han talar å ämbetets väg-  
nar eller på sitt anspråk att som "Kristi  
ställföreträdare" på jorden kunna göra  
anspråk på varje nation i världen.

När påven kommer, kommer han att  
kyssa svensk jord. För många ter sig  
detta som en gest av ödmjukhet. Men  
egentligen är det något helt annat. Det  
är ett anspråkstagande av det land han  
beträder. Varje statsbesök han gör är  
ett anspråkstagande att landet skall  
komma under "den heliga stolen".

### "Skingrade bröder"

I Sveriges religiösa "ekumeniska" kli-  
mat välkomnas en större gemenskap  
med den romersk-katolska kyrkan.  
Företrädare för i stort sett varje sam-  
fund skall gå i procession i Uppsala  
domkyrka och påven kommer att utta-  
la sin välsignelse i gudstjänsten där.  
Från påvens sida har ekumenik alltid  
varit betydelsefull. Men för den ro-  
merska kyrkan har detta alltid betytt  
att de "skingrade bröderna" skall kom-  
ma tillbaka till "moderkyrkan" i Rom.  
Detta är den ekumenikens egentliga  
mening!

Vad är det alltså för spel som pågår  
framför tusentals troendes ögon? Ser

man på påvedömetts historia, har det  
alltid stått emot, stoppat och krossat all  
väckelsekristendom i alla tider. Katol-  
ska kyrkan har i århundraden besudlat  
sina händer med martyrer som Savo-  
narola, Huss, Tyndale m fl. De katol-  
ska dogmerna är inget annat än gär-  
ningslära, falsk religiositet och vidske-  
pelse.

När kristendomen blev statsreligion,  
genom kejsar Konstantin på 300-talet  
efter Kristus, skedde en mycket olyck-  
lig utveckling. Man gick från väckelse-  
kristendom till en religiös-politisk  
maktapparat. Från andefyllda tjänste-  
gävor gick man till biskopar, kardina-  
ler och påvar som fick sin makt från  
staten. Man började använda yttre  
maktmedel istället för andlig auktorit-  
tet. En av kyrkohistoriens mest ansed-  
da katolska kyrkofäder Augustinus,  
menade på fullt allvar att villolärare  
skulle man skicka armén på. Yttre  
maktmedel blev alltså vägen att upp-  
rätthålla lära och praxis.

### Munkar och nunnor

Ganska snart växte munkväsendet  
fram. En av grundpelarna i munkvä-  
sende och ordensväsende är askesen.  
Genom att ta avstånd från och förakta  
det materiella och spåka sig från det  
jordiska skulle man uppnå det him-  
melska. Munkar och nunnor kunde  
t o m samla poäng genom sina liv, som  
kunde komma andra människor till  
godo för deras frälsning.

Askese är inget kristet. Det är gnosti-  
cismen som föraktar det materiella.  
Kristendomen ser allt skapat som en  
gåva av Gud och föraktar inte Guds  
gävor utan förvaltar dem. 1 Tim 4:1-3  
talar om att det är demoner som  
inspirerar lärare som föraktar och för-  
kastar äktenskapet.

Grundläggande i den katolska tron  
är gärningsläran i sakramenten.  
Genom att använda sakramenten får  
man del av Guds nåd, och hjälp att  
komma till himlen. Men det är inte

# Kommentaren

dop, nattvard eller något annat av de katolska sakramenten som frälser en människa. En människa blir frälst av nåd allena, genom tron på Jesu verk på Golgata. Endast genom att i tro ta emot vad Gud har gjort i Kristus på Golgata, kan en människa bli född på nytt. Det är omvändelse och pånyttfödelse som gör att människor blir lemmar i Kristi kropp, inte dop, mässor och påvliga välsignelser.

Jesu fullbordade verk på Golgata. Bakom hela detta bedrägliga system finns religiösa andemakter som har en enorm påverkan på människor. Frågan är hur många människor som genom madonna-tillbedjan har gått evigt förlorade, istället för att genom tron på Jesus allena, komma till himlen.

Överallt dit påven kommer sprider han Maria-kulten och madonna-till-

Wesley m fl, kallat henne för den stora skökan som dricker de heligas blod. Huruvida hon är identisk med den stora skökan i Uppenbarelseboken kan jag inte uttala mig om, men en sak är säker, många drag, genom historiens gång, och idag, påminner om det.

I detta religiösa system finns det naturligtvis människor som är frälsta. Världens största pingstsamfund är katolska kyrkan. Det finns många andedöpta Jesus-troende där. Men de är människor som Gud av nåd har frälst, i ett system som är fullt av religiösa andemakter. Det är dessa andemakter som gärna skulle vilja återerövra områden som de har tappat. Som troende är det viktigt att i anden ta en stark ställning. Jesus älskar alla människor och det gör vi också. Men den kamp vi har att kämpa är inte en kamp emot kött och blod, utan mot andefurstar och andemakter i himlarymderna.

## Rening i Jesu blod

Det är tragiskt att se, att intellektuella, sekulariserade kristna med glädje tar emot ett religiöst system som är anti-kristligt. De riter och processioner som utförs drar inte ner Guds härlighet, de öppnar för religiösa andemakter. Det enda som kan rädda Sverige är reningen i Jesu blod, inte falsk ekumenik.

Därför tar vi en stark ställning i andevärlden och binder upp allt orent inflytande över de nordiska länderna och begär att det som de religiösa andemakterna önskar skall gå om intet. Vad Sverige behöver är inte mer religiositet, utan överflödande liv i Kristus Jesus, genom människor som själva blivit renade i Jesu blod och upplevt vad det innebär att leva i kraft av Jesu seger.

Församlingen är inte på väg tillbaka till religiös fångenskap, utan på väg ut i mer frihet och mer av Guds härlighet och kraft. Guds härlighet, inte religiositet och humanism, kommer att präglade henne starkt under 90-talet.

Ulf Ekman



*"Överallt dit påven kommer sprider han Maria-kulten och madonna-tillbedjan. I europeiska länder sker det på ett mer intellektuellt och sofistikerat sätt..."*

## Vidskepelse

Genom sakramentstron utbreddes en väldig vidskepelse som yttrade sig i helgondyrkan, fetischer, fabler, sägner och religiösa traditioner. Allt ifrån vaxljus, krucifix och madonnor, till klädedräkter och ett otal högtidsdagar utvecklades. Allt detta smyckade det kyrkliga livet och invaggade människor i en falsk säkerhet om att få komma till himlen, om man bara deltog i sådant.

Men vägen till himlen går inte genom allt detta utan enbart genom

bedjan. I europeiska länder sker det på ett mer intellektuellt och sofistikerat sätt än i andra delar av världen, där man mer öppet har blandat Mariadyrkan med inhemska ockultism.

## Ockulta inslag

Den romerska kyrkan är full av ockulta inslag och har sina rötter i mycket falsk religiositet. Man har också oerhörda maktanspråk och har i alla tider förföljt väckelser. Därför har troshjältar i alla tider, såsom Johan Huss, Luther,

## **What does the Pope have to do in Uppsala?**

Scandinavia is preparing for a Papal visit. For the first time in the history of papacy a Pope will visit Sweden. The comments in Christian newspapers and magazines are generally positive. It seems people feel flattered by such a distinguished visit. In the Christian sphere his visit is considered positive, judging by the books about the Pope that is now being published by Christian publishers.

The Pope will visit three places in Sweden: Stockholm, with a mass in Globen, Vadstena, which was the home of Sweden's only Catholic saint, and Uppsala.

In an interview the Catholic Bishop in Stockholm described the necessity of the Pope's visit in Uppsala. It's not too farfetched, one might think, considering that the Arch Bishop, Scandinavia's biggest Cathedral, several Christian institutions, a huge theological faculty and much more is located in Uppsala. But according to the Catholic Bishop this is not the reason – rather the fact that it was in Uppsala (at Uppsala congress in 1593), that Sweden became an Evangelical-Lutheran country. That is the reason why it is important for the Pope to visit Uppsala, according to the Catholic Stockholm Bishop.

The Curia has said that the Pope will not come to Sweden as some Billy Graham on a crusade, but to meet with his peers. That sounds fair, but then why Uppsala? Because before the reformation, Sweden was a Catholic country. The Pope's sovereignty and power reached far up north, from Rome all the way to the Nordic countries. Roman-Catholic faith and practice ruled in Sweden.

### Reformatory truths

This influence was broken when Luther's reformation reached Sweden through Olaus Petri. The evangelical doctrine was ratified as the official faith in Sweden in Uppsala, in February 1593. As opposed to the Catholic faith, they said that one should stick to "the pure and sanctifying word of God" alone, and stick to the foundational reformatory truths, such as a) "Scripture alone", b) "Grace alone", and c) "Faith alone". They dissociated themselves from "all the Papal... delusions". This decision led Sweden in a completely new direction, away from the papacy's supremacy and the Catholic doctrines of justification by works. That is why it is important for the Pope to visit Uppsala!

The Pope has not for a second changed all the foundational Catholic dogmas that the Roman Church has kept for centuries. Nor has he changed in terms of believing he is infallible when he speaks as a Pope, nor has he changed his claim to be Christ's representative on earth and by that claiming every nation on the earth.

When the Pope arrives, he will kiss Swedish soil. To many this is considered a gesture of humility, but what is really happening is something else. By kissing the ground he is claiming the country to which he is about to be welcomed. Every time he visits a country he is claiming that the country will be under the authority of "the holy chair".

### "Scattered brothers"

In the religious "ecumenical" climate of Sweden a wider fellowship with the Roman-Catholic Church is welcomed. Representatives from virtually every denomination will walk in the procession in Uppsala Cathedral and there the Pope will say his blessing. From the Pope's perspective ecumenicism has always been important. But to the Roman church this has

always meant that the “scattered brothers” would come back to the “mother church” in Rome. This is the actual meaning of ecumenicism!

So what kind of game is being played out right before the eyes of thousands of believers? If we take a look at the papacy’s history we see that it has always resisted, stopped and crushed all revival Christianity of all times. For centuries, the Catholic Church has defiled their hands with martyrs such as Savonarola, Huss, and Tyndale to mention a few. The Catholic dogmas are nothing but justification by works, false religion and superstition.

When Christianity became state religion through Constantine in the fourth century, a devastating development took place. They went from revival Christianity to a religious-political power system. They went from Spirit filled ministry gifts to bishops, cardinals and popes whose power depended on the state. They started using outer tools to gain power, instead of spiritual authority. One of the most respected Catholic Church fathers, Augustine, seriously meant that the army should go after the heretics. Outer tools of power became the way to maintain the doctrines and practices.

### Monks and nuns

Quite soon Monasticism came about. One of the pillars of Monasticism and the system of orders is asceticism. By dissociating and despising the materialistic world and mortifying the flesh here on earth you would gain what is up there. Monks and nuns could even score points through their lives that could benefit people other people’s salvation.

Asceticism has nothing to do with Christianity. It is Gnosticism that despises the materialistic world. Christianity considers all created things as a gift from God, it does not despise the creation – it treasures it. 1 Tim 4:1-3 teaches that it is demons that inspire the doctrines that despise and reject marriage.

Justification through works, in the sacraments, is foundational to the Catholic faith. By using the sacraments you will receive God’s grace and help to get to heaven. But it is not the baptism, the Eucharist or any of the Catholic sacraments that can save a person. A person is saved solely by the grace of God, through faith in what Jesus did on the cross. Only by receiving in faith what God did on the cross can a person be born again. It is repentance and a new birth that graft people into the body of Christ – not baptisms, masses or papal blessings.

### Superstition

Through the strong faith in sacraments, superstition grew rapidly with effects such as worship of saints, fetishes, fables, legends and religions traditions. From wax candles, crucifixes and Madonnas, to vestments and numerous holy days were developed. All these things adorned the religious life and gave the people a false security by making them believe that they would get to heaven if they only participated in these things.

But the way to heaven is not through all these things but only through the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Behind this deceitful system are religious spiritual authorities who affect people massively. The question is how many people now are eternally lost due to the worship of Madonna statues, instead reaching heaven by putting their faith in Jesus alone.



Wherever the Pope goes he spreads the Mary-cult and Madonna worship. In European countries it happens in a more intellectual and sophisticated manner than in other parts of the world, where they have mixed Madonna worship with native occultism more openly.

### Occult elements

The Roman church is full of occult elements, which is rooted in very false religiosity. It also claims a great deal of power and has throughout the ages persecuted revivals. Because of that, heroes of the faith, such as Johan Huss, Luther, Wesley etc. called her the great prostitute who drinks the blood of the saints. Whether or not she is identical with the great prostitute in the Book of Revelations I couldn't say, but of this I am sure: Many traits, throughout the history and today, resemble her.

In this religious system, of course there are some saved people. The greatest Pentecostal church in the world is the Catholic Church – it has many Spirit filled Jesus-believers. But they are people whom God has saved through His grace, in a system full of religious spiritual forces. It is these forces that wish to recapture areas that they have lost. As a believer it is important to strongly resist this in the Spirit. Jesus loves all people and so do we. But our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers of the dark world and the spiritual forces in the heavenly realms.

### Purification in the blood of Jesus

It is a tragic thing to see that intellectual, secularized Christians happily receive a religious system that is anti-Christian. The rites and processions that are taking place will not call down the glory of God; they will open the door to the religious spirits. The only thing that will save Sweden is the purification in the blood of Jesus – not false ecumenicism.

This is why we take a strong position in the Spiritual realm and bind all the unclean influence over the Nordic countries, and demand that the religious spirits' every plan will fail. What Sweden needs is not more religiosity, but overflowing life in Jesus Christ, through people whose lives have been purified in the blood of Jesus and experienced what it means to live in the power of Jesus' victory.

The church is not going back to religious captivity; we are on our way into more freedom and more of God's glory and power. God's glory, not religiosity and captivity, will strongly characterize the church in the 1990s.

*Ulf Ekman*

Magazinet, June 1989