

Take the Catholic Quiz (Created by St. Matthew's Church in California)

(The answer might surprise you)

Your beliefs will help you to identify which tradition you are really following.

Please print this page and answer the following questions by placing a check mark next to the statements with which you agree. These questions are by no means a full review of the differences between the Ecumenical Catholic and Roman Catholic understanding of faith. There are many other questions that could be asked, but this is a sampling of questions that might reveal your attitudes/beliefs, allowing you to see if you are aligned with the Ecumenical Catholic or Roman Catholic thinking.

On which side do you find your belief system most closely aligned?

Column A

Column B

<p>___ 1. I believe the Pope is infallible in all matters of faith and moral practice and that he has direct spiritual authority over me and all others.</p>	<p>___ 1. I believe the Pope is a great leader and teacher of the church, but that in some of my decisions on faith and moral practice, I may differ with him.</p>
<p>___ 2. I believe that artificial birth control is a sin even when used by married couples.</p>	<p>___ 2. I believe that the decision to use artificial birth control is best decided by couples in serious, committed relationships.</p>
<p>___ 3. I believe that divorce between two Catholics is wrong and that the church should never recognize the divorce of a married Catholic couple.</p>	<p>___ 3. I believe divorce is often tragic, but not an unpardonable sin; that divorced people who remarry should be fully welcomed into the church and it's sacraments.</p>
<p>___ 4. I believe that only the Pope and Catholic bishops should have authority in the church and that lay people should not share in the church's governance.</p>	<p>___ 4. I believe that laypeople of the church should have a voice in the church's governance and that the clergy should have accountability to the people of the church.</p>
<p>___ 5. I believe that only celibate men should be priests.</p>	<p>___ 5. I believe priests can be celibate or married, male or female.</p>
<p>___ 6. I believe that non-Catholic churches are defective and that their</p>	<p>___ 6. I believe that non-Catholic churches are not "defective", but</p>

members are spiritually at risk because of this.	sincere expressions of Christian faith that do not share the traditions of the Catholic church.
____ 7. I believe that only Catholics should receive Holy Communion at mass and that Protestants should not be allowed to receive communion at Catholic masses.	____ 7. I believe Holy Communion at Mass should be open to Christians who are not Catholic, but are sincere people of faith.
____ 8. I believe that Holy Communion at mass should only be given to those who believe in the Pope's infallibility and authority, and, thus, Protestants should be excluded.	____ 8. I believe that Holy Communion should be allowed for all who believe, not just those who accept the infallibility and authority of the Pope.
____ 9. I believe that sex between unmarried people is always a serious or mortal sin, and that even mature adults in committed, romantic relationships are sinning if they have sex before marriage.	____ 9. I believe that sex is best in the context of a marriage, but that mature adults in committed relationships are not automatically sinners because of their sexual sharing.
____ 10. I believe that gay and lesbian people are "disordered".	____ 10. I believe that gay and lesbian people are not "disordered", even if I do not understand or relate to their sexual orientation.

On which side do you find your belief system most closely aligned?

Score for column A: \_\_\_\_\_

Score for column B: \_\_\_\_\_

If you scored higher in column B than column A, then you are in the faith tradition of the Ecumenical Catholics. If you scored higher in column A than column B, you are more aligned with the Roman Catholic thinking.

What is the Ecumenical Catholic Communion?

The Ecumenical Catholic Communion traces its past to the historic Catholic traditions of Conciliarism. The Conciliarists of the Middle Ages held the most

ancient tradition of Christianity: that the highest authority of the church resides in the church councils in which the leaders (i.e., Bishops, Church Councils, etc.) of the whole church join together to affirm its teaching and governance.

In 1870, when the Bishop of Rome (the Pope) declared his authority to be higher than all Church Councils, a group of Catholics gathered together to form the Union of Utrecht. They became known as the Old Catholics because they held to the more ancient teaching about church authority (i.e., Church Councils as governing body) and refuted the dogma of papal infallibility.

This “old Catholic” movement spread throughout the world, also making its way to America, growing over the decades. Finally, in 2003, a group of independent Catholic communities who were inheritors of this Old Catholic tradition met in Orange, California to draft a constitution and become the Ecumenical Catholic Communion (ECC). The ECC now has parishes and other faith communities throughout the world to bear witness to the ancient Catholic tradition (i.e., the first 1000 years of Christianity), that included the election of bishops by the people, priests who were married or celibate, and a variety of ways to be Catholic and profess faith in Christ and his church.

The Ecumenical Catholic Communion celebrates the mass and the seven sacraments, is led by bishops and priests, and welcomes all.

To contact the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, call 1-714-647-1774 or e-mail the ECC at [ecc@catholiccommunion.org](mailto:ecc@catholiccommunion.org).