

## **Understanding and Evaluating the Appeal of Roman Catholicism**

Why are some evangelicals converting to Roman Catholicism? What is attractive about Roman Catholicism? What are the differences between what Roman Catholics and evangelicals believe? Are the differences substantial? This session will explore and evaluate why evangelicals find Catholicism appealing, clarify important differences and help evangelicals better understand their own identity.

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### **I. Introduction: Old and New Stories of Attraction**

- A. Stories of conversions to Roman Catholicism: from John Henry Newman to the Present
  
- B. The More General Ecumenical-friendly Climate

### **II. Assessing Roman Catholic Attractions**

- A. The Personality of Recent Popes
  - 1. John Paul II the Moral Bulwark
  
  - 2. Benedict XVI the Augustinian Theologian
  
  - 3. Francis the Revolutionary Friend

B. The Growing Affinities in Language

1. Evangelical Catholicism
  
2. The Insistence on Mission by Pope Francis

C. The Concerns for Global Causes

1. The Protection of the Family and Life
  
2. Ecumenism of Blood

**III. Evaluating Poor Evangelical Performances That Motivate the Attraction**

- A. Evangelicalism is Too Fragmented: A Longing for Unity
  
- B. Evangelicalism is Too Pragmatic: A Longing for Holiness
  
- C. Evangelicalism is Too Narrow-Minded: A Longing for Catholicity
  
- D. Evangelicalism is Too Shallow: A Longing for Apostolicity

