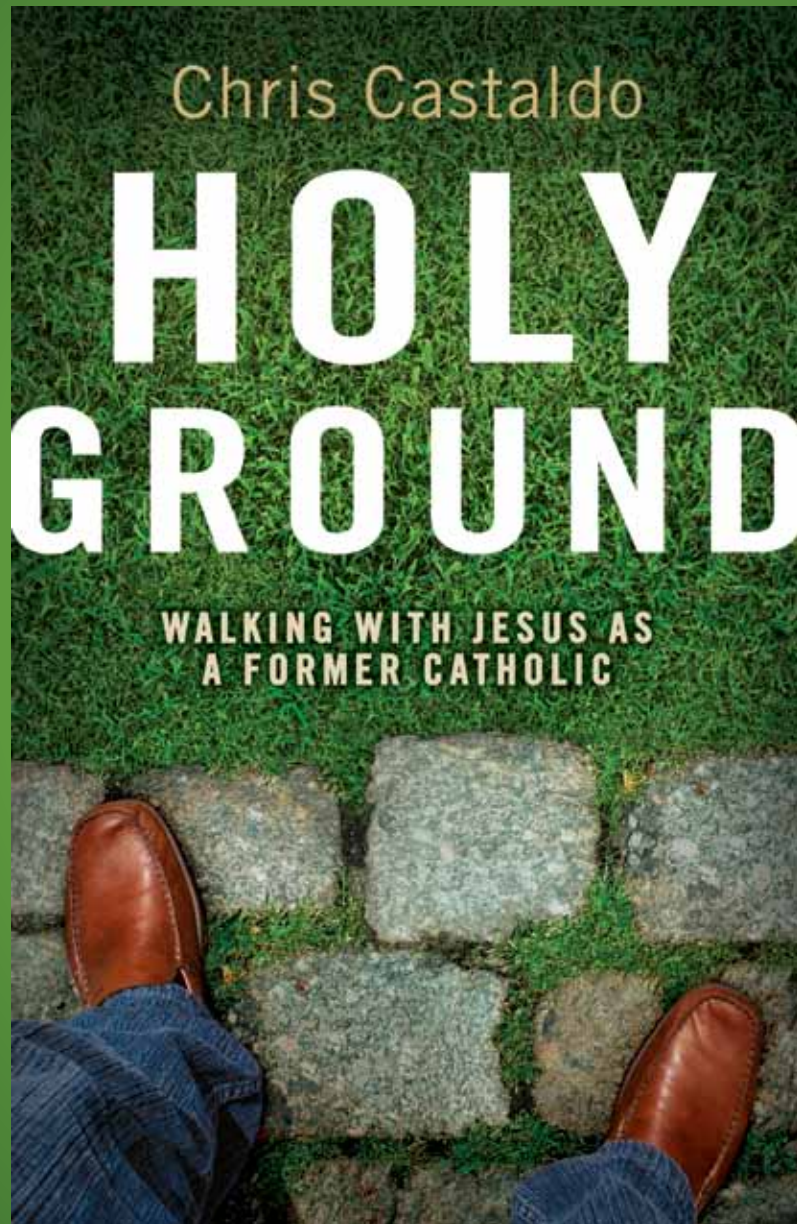


## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



## CHAPTER 1

### Understanding Why Catholics Become Evangelical

1. Identify a positive memory from your Catholic background, one which served to establish or nurture your faith.
  
2. In the section “Confronted by Death,” Chris explains how the loss of his grandfather caused him to reflect on the purpose of life. What events in your life have stimulated the same sort of questioning for you?
  
3. What is the fundamental difference between a Catholic and an Evangelical Protestant understanding of Church authority?<sup>1</sup>
  - a. The Catholic view:
  - b. The Evangelical view:
  
4. What are the main reasons you chose to leave the Catholic Church?
  - a. With which of the five reasons outlined in the first half of *Holy Ground* do you resonate?
  - b. In what order of priority would you put your reasons?
  
5. What insight have you acquired from this chapter?

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1. The answer boils down to our different view of how the life and authority of Jesus are embodied in his church and by extension into the world. Catholic theology sees a correlation between the person of Jesus and the church institution—the one, holy, Roman Catholic, and apostolic church. Evangelicals, on the other hand, correlate Jesus the living Word to Jesus the written Word (Scripture).

## CHAPTER 2

### Reason One: Full-Time Faith

1. How does the “image of God” relate to the divine purpose of humanity?
2. How do Catholics and Evangelicals differ in their understanding of how the church represents God’s kingdom?
3. What is the church’s divine purpose?
4. How have your personal routines of Christian worship and devotion changed since you became an Evangelical?
5. How do these routines get worked out in your ministry, in your workplace, and among your friends?
6. Dorothy Sayers asks a profound question: “How can anyone remain interested in a religion which seems to have no concern with nine-tenths of his life?” On a scale of one to ten, rate your ability to connect the dots between your Christian faith and the various tasks that you perform each week. How can you improve?
7. What insight have you acquired from this chapter?

## CHAPTER 3

### A Portrait of Evangelical Faith: Martin Luther

1. Historian Martin Marty describes Martin Luther as a “wrestler with God, indeed, as a God-obsessed seeker of certainty and assurance.”<sup>2</sup> How do you relate to Luther’s experience?
2. How was Luther’s ministry similar to that of John Wycliffe (1324–84) and John Hus (c. 1369–1415)?
3. Where do you see Luther’s questions and concerns expressed today, perhaps even in your own experience?
4. What do you think about the argument which some make that since the reforms of Vatican II, Catholics and Protestants are essentially the same?
5. How would you summarize the teaching of *sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone) and of what importance does it have to your faith?
6. What insight have you acquired from this chapter?

## CHAPTER 4

### Reason Two: Personal Relationship with Jesus

1. What conceptions of Evangelicalism did you have before moving toward your current church?
2. What kind of life-changing moment, perhaps as an adolescent or adult, resulted in your “conversion” to faith in Christ?
3. If you feel comfortable describing your experience, take a few minutes to share your conversion story with others in your group.
4. What Catholic rules or customs have you found particularly troubling or confusing?
5. What passages of Scripture have helped you to understand the message of the gospel? How did they help?
6. What insight have you acquired from this chapter?

## CHAPTER 5

### Reason Three: Direct Access to God

1. Of what significance is it that Jesus refers to his disciples as his friends in John 15?
2. What portion of Scripture has illuminated your appreciation of the direct nature of God's presence for those who are in Christ?
3. How can the church preserve a sense of personal devotion to God without allowing it to degenerate into sloppy irreverence?
4. How have the Catholic clergy (priests and nuns) positively impacted your life?
5. Why does the idea of succession lead Catholics to the conclusion of "papal infallibility," the notion that the pope can define dogma in a fully authoritative and inerrant manner?
6. Why is direct access to God a critical reality for Christian worship and service?
7. What insight have you acquired from this chapter?

## CHAPTER 6

### A Portrait of Catholic Faith: Loyola and Contarini

1. Around what question did Contarini's spiritual struggle revolve? Can you relate?
2. What lessons are offered by the Colloquy of Regensburg?
3. Why is Luther called ex-Catholic, Ignatius called traditional Catholic, and Contarini called Evangelical Catholic?
4. Where do you see examples of these profiles among Catholics today?
5. How do your struggles communicating with Catholic loved ones and friends resemble the obstacles to unity encountered at Regensburg?
6. What insight have you acquired from this chapter?

## CHAPTER 7

### Reason Four: Christ-Centered Devotion

1. What is *nuda Scriptura*?
2. If possible, cite an example of where you have observed *nuda Scriptura*.
3. How does the Catholic understanding of the “body of Christ” differ from a typical Evangelical conception?
4. How does Catholic tradition usurp the teaching of Scripture?
5. Cite some examples of how Evangelical teaching may trump Scripture.
6. What consequences result from your answers to questions four and five?
7. What insight have you acquired from this chapter?



## CHAPTER 8

### Reason Five: Motivated by Grace Instead of Guilt

1. What aspects of Andy Brucato's testimony struck you as familiar?
2. What is the "great exchange" as Andy describes it?
3. To what extent have you struggled with an injurious form of Catholic guilt?
4. If you are comfortable doing so, explain how you have dealt with the problem.
5. What is Luther's "Dung Hill" and how does it illustrate the doctrine of justification?
6. How could an Evangelical pastor (who is doctrinally sound) ever preach a message titled "Why I Believe in Purgatory"?
7. What insight have you acquired from this chapter?

## CHAPTER 9

### How Catholics View Evangelicals

1. Why would a Catholic accuse Evangelicalism of reducing salvation to “fire insurance”?
2. What did the Protestant Reformers teach about good works?
3. How does their emphasis on obedience relate to their insistence on justification by “faith alone”?
4. Identify some valuable lessons that Evangelicals can learn from Catholics.
5. What are major criticisms that Catholics have of Evangelicals?
6. Of the critiques mentioned in the previous question, which one is regarded as most noticeable by your Catholic friends and loved ones?
7. What can you do to improve the way your Catholic friends and family view your Evangelical faith?
8. What insight have you acquired from this chapter?

## CHAPTER 10

### Traditional, Evangelical, and Cultural Catholics

1. Why must Evangelicals communicate the gospel to Catholics?
2. What are some characteristics of traditional Catholics?
3. What are some areas of sensitivity to be aware of when addressing traditional Catholics?
4. What are the two prominent values that Evangelical Protestants share with Evangelical Catholics?
5. What are the distinctive qualities of cultural Catholics?
6. How would you approach a discussion about Jesus if you were sitting down with an Evangelical Catholic?
7. How might your approach differ if you were speaking with a cultural Catholic?
8. What insight have you acquired from this chapter?

## CHAPTER 11

### How to Relate to Catholics with Grace and Truth

1. Of the seven different ways that Evangelicals view Catholics, which one best describes your understanding?
2. What aspects of the definition of *evangelism* did you find most helpful?
3. Which of the “red light” mistakes have you committed?
4. Which elements of the “yellow light” section have you found applicable?
5. Describe a fruitful conversation you have had with a Catholic friend or loved one. What made it fruitful?
6. What is the “main thing” in our discussions with Catholics?
7. What insight have you acquired from this chapter?

## CHAPTER 12

### Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever

1. What comes to mind when you think about God? How does this concept of God relate to the person and passion of Jesus?
2. Why is the Old Testament so vital to the church?
3. What does God's covenant faithfulness to Israel teach us about his character?
4. Why does God correct Peter in Matthew 17:5? How does this exhortation speak to the church today?
5. Explain the practical significance of the upsilon vector.
6. What is the good news of Matthew 17:6–8?
7. What insight have you acquired from this chapter?