



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Amos 3:3



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The following article is by Rev. Jonathan Thomas, minister of Heritage Free Presbyterian Church, Prince George, British Columbia, Canada. It appeared in his paid advert in a local newspaper in Prince George.

This past summer, Pope John Paul II issued a statement that the Roman Catholic Church is the only true church. In his document *Dominus Iesus*, the Pope stated that other religions are "defective." He says, "There exists a single Church of Christ which subsists in the Catholic Church, governed by the Successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him." I'm sure the Vatican's re-assertion on this matter took a lot of ecumenical churches and leaders by surprise, but it should not have. This claim is neither new nor surprising. Rome has always held this position and is only restating its historic position. The Bishop of Rome is NOT the head of all Christendom by some "divine right." That position belongs uniquely to the Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Head of His Church! (A belief that is imbedded in the creeds of all Protestant churches.)

Keeping this in mind, it is most interesting to find within our city, Christian ministers from the Prince George Ministerial Association who are willing to bring their Protestant churches into an ever-closer communion with the Church of Rome. In a circular dated May 30, 2000 from the PGMA Executive under the title, "A Proposal regarding Ministerial Identity Modification", we find this. "On May 18, an ad hoc committee [from the PGMA] met with members of PLURA (Presbyterian, Lutheran, United, Roman Catholic and Anglican churches) to discuss the issue of the Ministerial's possible modification to be more representative of the larger community." The Ministerial Committee concluded that there is value in the Association's willingness to look at new ways to foster a more co-operative relationship with non-participating members of the larger Christian community.

The prophet Amos asked the rhetorical question, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" The answer is a resounding, unqualified, "NO!"

The apostle Paul puts it even more graphically in his second letter to the Corinthian church. Take time to read II Corinthians 6:14-18. Every child of God must read it prayerfully and carefully. The issues are great, the situation most serious, the stakes are high. God calls for separation from all that is against Christ and His truth. Separation never means "a more cooperative relationship," "come out" never means "stay in," and "touch not" never means "to embrace."