

**Thomas Paul Schirrmacher (Ed.)**

# **Evangelical – Roman Catholic Dialogue**

**The official documents of the dialogue between  
the Roman Catholic Church and  
the World Evangelical Alliance**

Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft  
Culture and Science Publ.  
Bonn 2023

**Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek**

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available on the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>

© Copyright 2023 by  
Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft Prof. Schirmacher  
UG (haftungsbeschränkt)  
Amtsgericht Bonn HRB 20699 / Börsenverein 97356  
Geschäftsführer: Prof. Dr. theol. Dr. phil. Thomas Schirmacher  
Friedrichstraße 38, D-53111 Bonn  
Fax +49 / 228 / 9650389  
[www.vkwonline.com](http://www.vkwonline.com) / [info@vkwonline.com](mailto:info@vkwonline.com)

ISSN 2197-9057

ISBN 978-3-86269-290-3

Covermotiv:  
San Agustin Church, Manila – © Judgefloro / Wikimedia, public domain  
Bridges Community Church, Fremont Ca – © David Ball / Wikimedia  
CC BY-SA 3.0

Printed in Germany

Cover design:  
HCB Verlagsservice Beese, Hamburg

Production:  
CPI Books / [www.cpi-print.de](http://www.cpi-print.de)

Complete directory for the book trade: [www.vkwonline.com](http://www.vkwonline.com)  
Publishing distribution: [info@vkwonline.com](mailto:info@vkwonline.com) or Fax +49 / 228 / 9650389

Private customers: in any book store or at [www.vkwonline.com](http://www.vkwonline.com)

# Contents

<b>The Evangelical-Roman Catholic Dialogue on Mission (1977–1984).....</b>	<b>9</b>
Introduction .....	9
1) The Participants.....	9
2) The Background.....	11
3) The Experience .....	12
4) The Report .....	12
1. Revelation and Authority .....	13
1) Revelation, the Bible and the Formulation of Truth.....	14
2) Principles of Biblical Interpretation .....	17
3) The Church’s Teaching Authority .....	19
4) Can the Church be Reformed? .....	22
2. The Nature of Mission .....	23
1) The Basis of Mission .....	23
2) Authority and Initiative in Mission.....	25
3) Evangelization and Socio-political Responsibility .....	26
4) God’s Work Outside the Christian Community .....	27
3. The Gospel of Salvation.....	28
1) Human Need .....	29
2) The Person of Jesus Christ .....	30
3) The Work of Jesus Christ .....	31
4) The Uniqueness and Universality of Jesus Christ .....	33
5) The Meaning of Salvation.....	35
Appendix: The Role of Mary in Salvation.....	36
4. Our Response in the Holy Spirit to the Gospel .....	40
1) The Work of the Holy Spirit .....	40
2) Conversion and Baptism.....	41
3) Church Membership.....	43
4) Assurance of Salvation.....	44
5. The Church and the Gospel .....	45
1) The Church is a Part of the Gospel .....	45
2) The Church is a Fruit of the Gospel.....	46
3) The Church is an Embodiment of the Gospel .....	47
4) The Church is an Agent of the Gospel.....	48

6. The Gospel and Culture.....	49
1) Culture and the Bible .....	49
2) Culture and Evangelism.....	50
3) Culture and Conversion .....	51
4) Culture and Church Formation.....	52
7. The possibilities of Common Witness .....	53
1) Our Unity and Disunity .....	54
2) Common Witness.....	55
3) Unworthy Witness.....	60
Conclusion .....	62
APPENDIX: The Participants .....	63
<b>Church, Evangelisation, and the Bonds of <i>Koinonia</i> (1993–2002) .....</b>	<b>67</b>
Preamble .....	67
The Status of this Report .....	69
Part I: Catholics, Evangelicals, and <i>Koinonia</i> .....	69
A. The Church as <i>koinonia</i> (Fellowship, Communion).....	69
B. Our Respective Understandings of the Church and of Other Christians .....	72
C. Some Dimensions of the Church .....	78
D. Preparing for a Different Future .....	84
Part II: Catholics, Evangelicals, and Evangelization in Light of <i>Koinonia</i> .....	85
A. Our Respective Views on Evangelization/Evangelism.....	85
B. Old Tensions in a New Context of <i>Koinonia</i> .....	87
Abbreviations .....	96
Catholic Documents.....	96
Evangelical Documents .....	96
Appendix I.....	98
Development of this international consultation process: A brief overview .....	98
Appendix 2 .....	103
List of participants.....	103
<b>Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World (2011) .....</b>	<b>107</b>
Preamble .....	107
A basis for Christian witness .....	108

---

Principles .....	109
Recommendations .....	110
Appendix: Background to the document .....	111
<b>‘Scripture and Tradition’ and ‘the Church in Salvation’ – Catholics and Evangelicals Explore Challenges and Opportunities (2009–2016).....</b>	<b>113</b>
The Status of this Report .....	113
Introduction: Setting the Frame for our Consultation .....	114
The Biblical Foundations for this Consultation.....	114
The Challenges Encountered Among Evangelicals and Catholics	115
The Contemporary Challenges to the Christian Witness .....	116
Response to these Challenges and Our Shared Beliefs .....	118
Method of the Consultation .....	119
Part I: The Word of God is Living and Active .....	121
Evangelicals and Catholics Reflect Together on the Scriptures and the Apostolic Tradition .....	121
Introduction .....	121
1. The Scriptures.....	122
2. Apostolic Tradition.....	126
3. Scripture and Tradition .....	130
Part 2: God’s Gift of Salvation in the Church.....	135
Evangelicals and Catholics Reflect together on Salvation and the Church .....	135
Conclusion .....	148
Appendix 1: Participants.....	152
Appendix 2: Places and Papers.....	153
Appendix 3: Questionnaires .....	155
Catholic Questionnaire on Evangelical – Catholic Relations .....	155
Evangelical Questionnaire on Catholic – Evangelical Relations...	156