

## ***From Conflict to Communion: Can We Talk? The LWF says “No.”***

*From Conflict to Communion* (C2C) is an LWF-Vatican guide to commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Unfortunately C2C wants to control the conversation so that real differences are not discussed.

Where do things really stand between Lutherans and Catholics today?

In the next few weeks we'll be posting a 12 part review of C2C. Here is #11 from that review:

### **11. C2C glides over the ordination of women.**

C2C makes one passing reference to the ordination of women as one of several yet-to-be resolved “differences” (§176), when in fact the opposite is true: The ordination of women is an insurmountable obstacle.

C2C is deceptive. Pope John Paul II made it clear in his Apostolic Letter, *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis* (1994), that restricting ordination to men is not “a merely disciplinary” action, but a doctrine which is unchanging and unchangeable:

“Although the teaching that priestly ordination is to be reserved to men alone has been preserved by the constant and universal Tradition of the Church and firmly taught by the Magisterium in its more recent documents, **at the present time in some places it is nonetheless considered still open to debate**, or the Church’s judgment that women are not to be admitted to ordination is considered to have **a merely disciplinary force.**”

“Wherefore, in order that all doubt may be removed regarding a matter of great importance, a matter which pertains to the Church’s divine constitution itself, in virtue of my ministry of confirming the brethren (cf. Lk 22:32) I declare that the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgment is to be **definitively held** by all the Church’s faithful.”<sup>1</sup>

The definitive Catholic position is also evident in Cardinal Walter Kasper’s 2006 warning to the Anglicans on the consequences of their upcoming vote to allow women bishops:

“The shared partaking of the one Lord’s table, which we long for so earnestly, would disappear into the far and ultimately unreachable distance. Instead of moving towards one another, we would coexist alongside one another.”<sup>2</sup>

Thus C2C invents a false hope when, after citing ordaining women as a “difference,” it claims: “Together Lutherans and Catholics can work out the relationship...” (§176). Catholics will not share communion with any church that ordains women.

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<sup>1</sup> Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Letter: *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, May 22, 1994 (§4). Emphasis added.

<sup>2</sup> “Unity impossible if the Anglican Church ordains women bishops, says Cardinal Kasper,” *Catholic News Agency* (February 12, 2012). Emphasis added.