

## ROMAN CATHOLICISM: IS IT EVANGELICAL?

### Dave Hunt debates Keith Fournier

In the early years after my conversion in 1984 a Christian friend in Canada recommended to me that should obtain a copy of a book called '**The Seduction of Christianity**' by **Dave Hunt**. I did get a copy and found it to be a great help in alerting me to many of the false teachings that were infiltrating professing Christendom.

Thereafter for many years I regularly received the newsletter of **Dave Hunt's** ministry **The Berean Call**. The web site of the ministry is located on <https://www.thebereancall.org/>

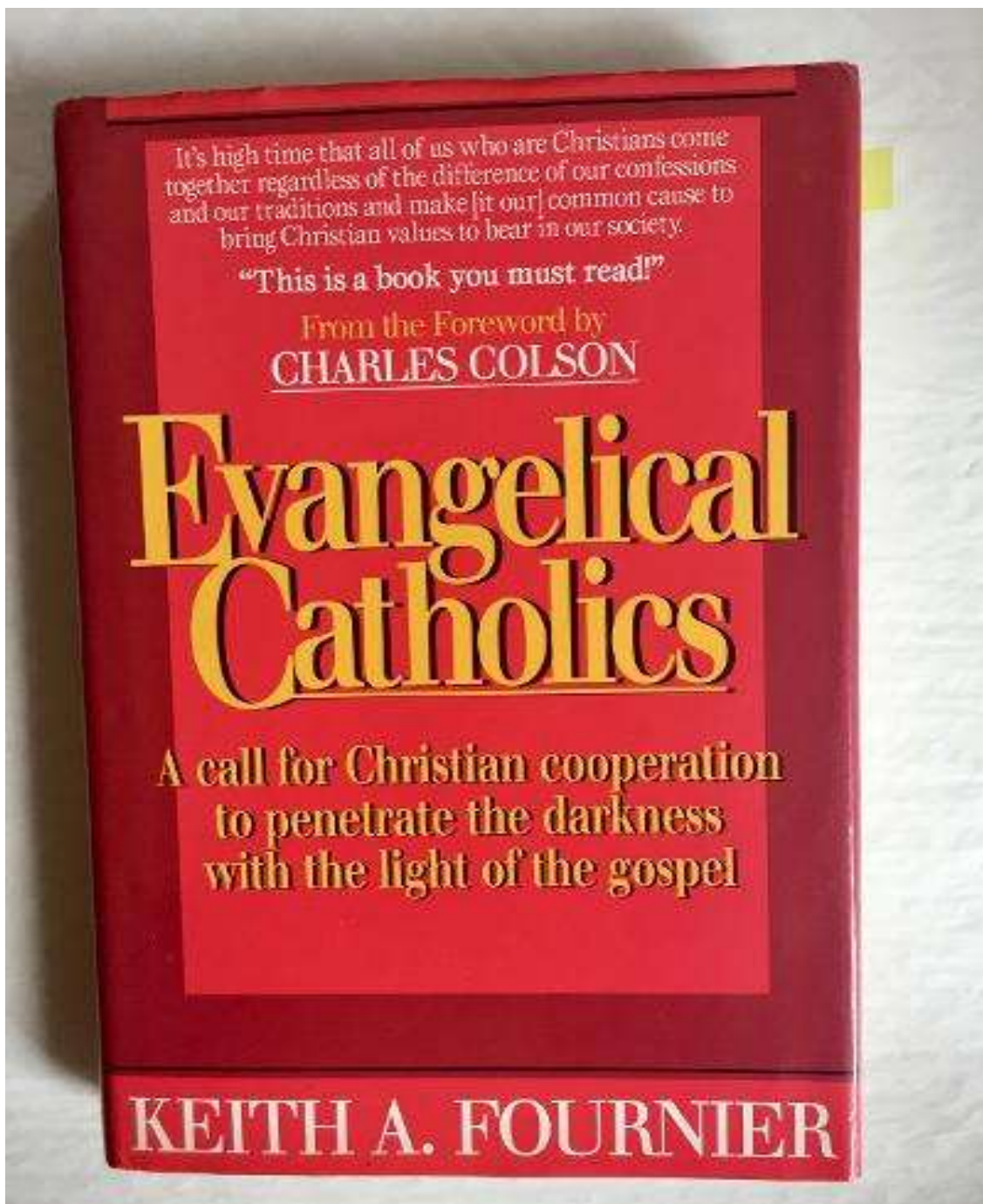
Then in 1990 at a conference in London I became friendly with a former priest and his wife, **Bart and Ruth Brewer**. I had previously read **Bart's** book '**Pilgrimage from Rome**'.

In the providence of God, I was able to invite both **Dave and Bart** to minister in Northern Ireland in 1994 and this is a photo of Margaret and I with them in our then house in Carryduff –



In the years that followed Margaret and I were able to meet up again with both couples and stay with them in their homes in Bend OR (Dave and Ruth) and San Diego CA (Bart and Ruth).

During the recent 'lock-down' due to corona-virus I came across audio cassette tapes of several debates that **Dave Hunt** took part in on the subject of **Roman Catholicism**. The debate that features in the title of this article was with an articulate and zealous Roman Catholic called **Keith Fournier** – probably best known as the author of the book '**Evangelical Catholics**' that contained a 'glowing' foreword by **Charles Colson**, one of the 'architects' of the infamous 1994 document '**Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission for the Third Millennium**'.



Just to give you a 'flavour' of **Keith Fournier's** zeal for his Roman Catholic religion let me give you a quote from his book. On page 161 he wrote –

**'As a Catholic Christian, I believe the Eucharist is the sacrament of unity. And because the church is divided, I embrace my church's position that I cannot participate in the Eucharist with Christians of other traditions... we cannot pretend there aren't differences in our understandings of the Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper. There are differences, and they are real and important'**.

This would be fully in keeping with the teaching expressed in the booklet **'One Bread: One Body'** issued by the **'Catholic Bishops' Conferences of England & Wales Ireland Scotland 1998'**. You can read the text of that booklet on this link –

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/wp-content/uploads/images/docs/onebread.pdf>

**'It is above all at the Eucharist that Christians become one in Christ, sharing together as 'one body' the 'one bread' of the Lord. An understanding of the Eucharist is essential, therefore, to the search for Christian unity. There can be no full unity among Christians that does not embrace unity in the Eucharist, and no full unity in the Eucharist without a shared understanding of all that the Eucharist contains and signifies. The primary purpose of our document is to present the teaching of the Catholic Church on the mystery of the Eucharist (p 7) ... It is of special concern to us that when someone receives a sacrament he or she knows and desires what the Church means by that sacrament. It is right to expect that anyone who receives Holy Communion in the Catholic Church should manifest Catholic faith in the Eucharist' (p 11) ... The fundamental principle which underlines our norms is that 'the Eucharist is properly the sacrament of those who are in full communion with the Church'. It is important that Catholics themselves understand this doctrine' (p 75).**

With gracious permission given by **Tom McMahon** of **The Berean Beacon** the debate between **Dave Hunt** and **Keith Fournier** on the subject – **'Roman Catholicism: Is it Evangelical?'** can be heard on this link –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfcrFhWnppc>

## APPENDIX

Whilst **Dave Hunt** and **Bart Brewer** were with me in 1994, they took part in the first ever public debate that I organised on the subject of –

**'Protestants and Roman Catholics: Should they worship together?'**

The video of that debate can be viewed on these links –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPVo8Q32TH0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeKDL-Q-SQ8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZfuPTQ9JoY>