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# ***WRESTLING WITH THE FAITH***

**THE CHALLENGING CASE FOR CRITICAL BELONGING IN TODAY'S CHURCH**

Richard R. Gaillardetz, Ph.D.  
Joseph Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology  
Boston College  
[www.gaillardetz.com](http://www.gaillardetz.com)



# ***I. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO A CRISIS OF ECCLESIAL BELONGING***

**A. The Salvific Optimism of Vatican II**

**B. Anti-Institutional Bias**

**C. The Fragilization of Religious Identity**

**D. Suspicion of Doctrine**

## **II. THE CASE FOR CRITICAL, ECCLESIAL BELONGING”**

### **A. Responding to “the Injured”**

- 1. Putting Concern for the Victims above a Concern for the Church’s Good Reputation***
- 2. Emphasizing both Symbolic and Concrete Expressions of Ecclesial Repentance***

## **II. THE CASE FOR CRITICAL, ECCLESIAL BELONGING”**

### **A. Responding to “the Injured”**

### **B. Responding to “the Drifters”**

***1. Honoring the Drive for Authenticity***

***2. Pursuing an Authentic Christian Apologetics***

***3. Presenting the Life of Christian Community as a “Pedagogy of Desire”***

## **II. THE CASE FOR CRITICAL, ECCLESIAL BELONGING”**

**A. Responding to “the Injured”**

**B. Responding to “the Drifters”**

**C. Responding to “the Dissenters”**

**1. Acknowledging the Necessity of Criticism**

**2. Acknowledging the Grace of Self-Doubt**

**3. Encouraging a Mature “Wrestling with the Faith”**