The cataclysms of the last century were a great challenge for the Christian church, especially for the churches in the Central Eastern European region, because of the long lasting ideological pressure of Communism. The following themes became burning issues after the changes of 1989 in Hungary: valour and even martyrdom - or paths of accommodation and discretion; holiness and separation; the unity of the church; the identity of the church and believers; ethnicity; the relationship between church and society and between church and state.

The Church without Spot or Wrinkle (Ecclesia sine macula et ruga) offers a systematic theological analysis of the ecclesiological situation of the Reformed Church of Hungary after the downfall of Communism in 1989/1990, in the context of the above mentioned themes. A special focus has been applied through the investigation of the theological elements of the Catholic-Donatist debate, as one of the first notable church dissents in antiquity. A wide analysis is integrated under the term Donatist Factors. The study assumes that Donatism is not only a specific past movement which belongs to church history, but also contains theological elements which can play an important role in any ambiguous ecclesiastical situation, especially after persecution of the church. Therefore, the analogies in relation to this first notable church dissent in many ways can give a useful guidance to the Hungarian situation; they provide a broader view for analysis, for evaluation, and are helpful in taking some historical distance.

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