

The Authority of the Church vs. Scripture Alone

The Problem

- † Many times Catholics are asked all sorts of questions about their Catholic faith. If they are Protestant Christians, these questions usually revolve around, "Why do you believe _____? Where's that in the Bible?"
- † Unfortunately, we Catholics don't often know where in the Bible their Catholic beliefs can be found.
- † For a Protestant, this reality of not knowing the chapter and verse of our beliefs is unthinkable...it seems to them like unfounded faith or faith without any solid foundation.
- † For us to say we believe something because that's what the Church teaches, doesn't make sense to them because they don't see the Church as infallible and thus they see us as trusting fallible, sinful men and not being rooted in the Word of God.

The Challenge

- † To know the reasons why the Church teaches what she does so we can help others see that our faith is biblical and has a solid foundation worthy of trust.
- † To know the Bible verses that support our faith so we can love our faith more and open others to seeing its light.
- † To enter into the Catholic world view of Revelation so we can praise Christ for His gift to us and offer to others this wonderful treasure given to the Church.

The Catholic World View

The Reality of Revelation

- † "It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will. His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature." (CCC #51)
- † The all-powerful, infinite God wants to communicate his own divine life to us in order to adopt us as sons in His only Son. He reveals Himself to make us capable of responding to Him, knowing Him, and loving Him, far beyond our natural capacity
- † This Revelation is realized in words and deeds.

The Stages of Revelation

- † In the Garden, God invited Adam & Eve to an intimate communion with Himself.
- † When they sinned, He did not abandon us but promised to save us and bring us to Himself.
- † He did this by offering progressive covenants to our ancestors. First with Noah, then Abraham, Moses, and David.
- † In the fulness of time, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, the Word of God, the fulness of Revelation, to redeem

all mankind and offer the new and eternal covenant in His Blood.

- † "In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. (Heb. 1:1-2)" Christ, the Son of God made man, is the Father's one, perfect and unsurpassable Word. In him he has said everything; there will be no other word than this one." (CCC #65)
- † So we have this complete and perfect treasure of Divine Revelation that will never change and never be added to...the fulness of the knowledge and means of grace and truth.
- † The Question is: Where is this Treasure? How is it passed down throughout the ages?

The Transmission of Divine Revelation

- † "God graciously arranged that the things he had once revealed for the salvation of all peoples should remain in their entirety, throughout the ages, and be transmitted to all generations." (CCC #74)
- † Jesus Christ, the fulness of God's Revelation, preached the Gospel, and fulfilled it in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection (words and deeds).
- † Jesus called the apostles, and commanded them to preach the Gospel, handing on what they themselves received, either from Christ Himself or under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
 - † *Matthew 28:18-20* -- "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.""
- † This fulness of Revelation, this Gospel was given to them in two modes, and they handed it on in those two modes:
 1. *in writing* - at the time of the preaching of Christ, this was the Old Testament
 2. *orally* - all that Christ had taught them or they would learn from the Holy Spirit. Jesus didn't write any books of the Bible, He taught them and commanded them to teach others.

- † To remember and preserve from error all that Christ had taught the apostles, He gave them the Holy Spirit and the power to be able to speak with the authority of Christ.
 - † *John 16:13-14* - "When the Spirit of truth comes,

he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

† *John 14:26* - “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

† *Luke 10:16* - “He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

† “In order that the full and living Gospel might always be preserved in the Church the apostles left bishops as their successors. They gave them their own position of teaching authority." Indeed, "the apostolic preaching, which is expressed in a special way in the inspired books, was to be preserved in a continuous line of succession until the end of time.” (CCC #77)

† Acts 1:20 -- “His office let another take” referring to Matthias taking the place of Judas

† 2 Timothy 2:2 – “what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

† cf. 1 Tim. 4:14, Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5

† “This living transmission, accomplished in the Holy Spirit, is called Tradition, since it is distinct from Sacred Scripture, though closely connected to it. Through Tradition, "the Church, in her doctrine, life and worship, perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes.” (CCC #78)

† **The Two Distinct Modes of Transmission are:**

1. **Sacred Scripture** - “the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC #81)

2. **Sacred Tradition** - by which the Church “transmits in its entirety the Word of God which has been entrusted to the apostles by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit.” (CCC #81)

† The successors of the apostles, the pope & bishops, have received the mission from Christ and the apostles to infallibly preserve, expound, and proclaim this deposit of faith by the power of the Holy Spirit.

† This is why Catholics can have great confidence in the teachings of the Church. The Catholic Church has received the entire treasure of faith from Christ and the Holy Spirit protects the Church from ever losing that treasure.

written to a Catholic tempted to convert to Protestantism

“Why does the Catholic Church seem to tread on such a fine line in areas of teaching, like having statues but it not being idolatry, honoring saints without worshiping them, saying we are divinized without saying we become **a** god. Why? Because the truth is ours, it was given to us by Jesus Christ and for the love of God we are going to keep all of it....all of it. We go to the very edges to keep all of the truth. We trust in the promise of Christ that the Holy Spirit is in the Church guiding her in all truths (John 16:13) and bringing to mind what Christ has said (Jn 14:26). We believe that the gates of hell with **never** prevail against the Church (Mt. 16:18) and Christ has set her up as the pillar and foundation of truth (1 Tim 3:15). The truth was given to us by Christ and we aren’t giving any of it up, no matter how much human respect it might cost us. Why? Because it is the truth that sets us free. Free! Are you a child of God or not...have you been set free or not? Christ said his disciples would trample serpents and do even greater deeds than He. Why then are you so afraid of the fulness of the truth? Or are you afraid of the fulness of the truth because you don’t want to obey the whole truth, afraid of what it might cost you? Not being Catholic is an easier life, you can have the Bible and read those passages you want and work on the areas you want, it’s cafeteria Christianity. But the fulness of Revelation is the fulness of the means of salvation and the power to live the freedom of the sons of God. The Catholic Church is the bride of Christ and she can handle all the truth because of the power of her founder, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in her. We don’t have to let go of any truths because we are afraid it might lead us away. If all we had was the Bible then I would be afraid. But we don’t just have the Bible, we have the Holy Spirit, the power of God almighty, to preserve us and keep us in truth so that we can be set free to worship the Father in spirit and truth.”

Sola Scripture: What is Your Authority?

What is Sola Scriptura

† Simply put, *Sola Scriptura* means “only Scripture” and is one of the fundamental underpinnings of Protestantism. They believe the Bible alone is the sole

authority in matters of faith...the sole rule of faith.

† So in any discussion of what to believe, there is a key difference in authority: for Protestants its only the Bible; whereas for Catholics it is the Bible and Tradition

infallibly explained by the Magisterium.

† They assume something that needs to be proven.

Apologetical Warning

† This is a foundational issue for our Protestant brothers and sisters and should not be attacked lightly.

† Don't attack the foundation of someone's faith if you are not rooted in love and don't offer them hope of something greater.

† Many times you have to work up to this point by dealing with others issues first so they can see that the Catholic Church isn't this evil, corrupt thing that people are often taught. Otherwise, they will simply reject this foundation correction because the cost is too great.

† If you strike at someone's foundation, you have to be willing to go the distance and help them rebuild the house.

Protestant Worldview of Revelation

† So, up to a certain point, Protestants agree with us on there being two modes of transmission: Scripture and Oral Tradition, infallibly taught by the apostles and at least their successors who wrote parts of the New Testament.

† What has to be biblically proven is that everything in Tradition was written down...that Tradition collapsed into the Bible.

† If this collapse cannot be proven in the Bible, then we must remain with the two modes, sustained by the

traditions even as I have delivered them to you."

† *2 Thess. 2:15* – "So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter."

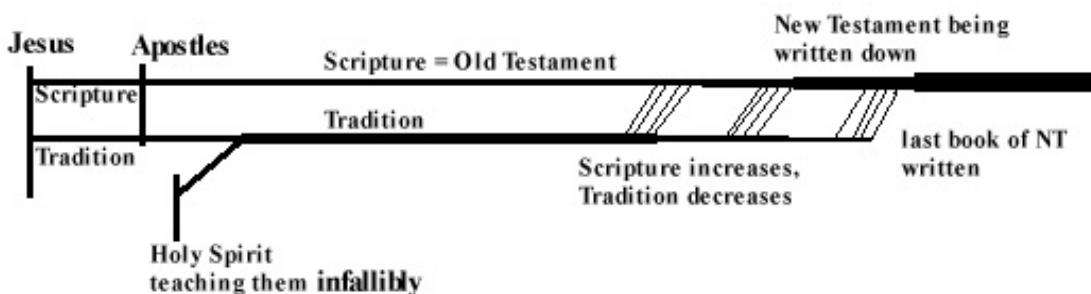
† *2 Thess 3:6* – "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is living in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us."

† How can Jesus condemn traditions and St. Paul say we have to hold to the traditions. Clearly Jesus is condemning human traditions that aren't in line with God's commandments and not speaking of traditions that are of divine origin or even human traditions that are in line with the commandments...like laundry day or spring cleaning.

Where in the Bible does it say that?

† A great question to ask is, "Where in the Bible does it say that the Bible is the only authority?"

† The answer is...nowhere



successors to the apostles.

† Simply put...this complete collapse of all Tradition into Scripture is nowhere in the Bible.

Doesn't Jesus condemn traditions?

† *Matthew 15:3* – "He answered them, "And why do you transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?" (cf. *Mark 7:9* and *Colossians 2:8*)

† We believe that the Bible clearly makes the distinction between human traditions that can change and be wrong and divine traditions (or Sacred Tradition) that is from God and cannot change or be wrong.

† *1 Cor. 11:2* – "I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the

Verses Sometimes Used by Protestants to Support Sola Scriptura

† *1 Timothy 3:16-17* – "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

† This doesn't say that the Bible is the only authority...only that it is divinely inspired, something we agree on. But the Bible being inspired doesn't mean Tradition can't be either.

† Some may respond and say that if the Bible makes you complete...then it is all you need. First, it says

“for every good work” not for every doctrine. Secondly, if it were the only thing you needed, then you wouldn’t need Jesus Christ, faith, hope, love, baptism, air, anything....

- † St. Paul’s point here is to tell Timothy that he is not complete without the Bible...like saying a fully furnished room is only complete if it has a light or a table.
- † *1 Corinthians 4:6* – “I have applied all this to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brethren, that you may learn by us *not to go beyond what is written*, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.
- † the Greek of “what is written” is *gegraptai*. This is the perfect passive, 3rd person singular of graphw - to write. So, rather than “is written”, it should be “has been written”. The perfect tense means a “past completed action.”
- † So Paul is referring to something that was written in the past that has an effect on the Corinthians now. So, from this word, we wouldn’t be able to go past what has been written before that. Because it is perfect passive and a verb, one cannot suggest that Paul is referring to a body of writings which would include future writings. The perfect tense negates that possibility.
- † *John 20:30-31* – “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; *but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.*
- † This is often used to say, “what is written is all you need to believe & have life.”
- † If this were true, then we wouldn’t need anything but the Gospel of John...because St. John says, “these are written”...i.e. what he has written.
- † St. John is not speaking of *Sola Scriptura* but stating that so much could be written about Jesus but He chose to write these things that we may believe.
- † *John 21:25* – “ But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.”
- † *Ephesians 3:3-4* – “...how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. *When you read this you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ...*”
- † Paul is not making a *Sola Scriptura* comment, simply referring to what he wrote (past tense) “briefly”. If you push the argument, then logical consistency again necessitates that only what Paul wrote before this briefly is necessary. So you don’t need the Gospels, grace, the Holy Spirit, or anything else to understand the mystery?
- † *Romans 3:4* - “Let God be true though every man be false...”
- † St. Paul is not speaking here of *Sola Scriptura* but the fidelity of God...that even if everyone should fail and sin, God would not stop being faithful to the new covenant in Christ. This is easily seen by looking at the context and even the previous verse 3, “What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?”
- † If this were taken literally, then it means that we can’t trust any man...even those who wrote the Bible or those claimed the text was inspired and from the apostles. God would have had to drop the complete Bible from heaven if this were a proof text for *Sola Scriptura*.
- † *Jude 1:3* – “Beloved, being very eager to write to you of our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the *faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*”
- † Catholics firmly believe that the faith was delivered once and for all. We believe that public and Divine Revelation ended with the death of the last apostle and can never be added to. The Church never adds to Revelation, only explains and defends what she has always believed.
- † Mormons, by the way, believe Revelation is still being added to and can change.
- † *2 Peter 1:3* – “His divine power *has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness*, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence...”
- † The same response for *Jude 1:3* applies here. We firmly believe that all things pertaining to life have been given to us in Divine Revelation, which is transmitted via Scripture and Tradition. The verse is speaking of the completeness of the deposit of faith, not the Bible as the sole authority
- † *Revelation 22:18-19* – “I warn every one who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: *if any one adds to them*, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and *if any one takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy*, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.”
- † First, St. John is speaking about adding to the “words of the prophecy of this book” namely adding to the book of Revelation.
- † Secondly, even if he did mean the whole of Scripture, we can completely agree...no one can add to the books in Scripture, saying something is divinely inspired and ought to be added.
- † But Protestants will say that St. John is saying you

can't add to Divine Revelation except what is written in the Bible since this saying comes at the very end of the Bible. Though this is a completely historically inaccurate view because the NT books weren't put together until the 300s.

- † *Deuteronomy 12:32* – “Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to it or take from it.”
- † *Deuteronomy 4:2* – “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it; that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”
- † If the passage from Revelation is saying we should not add to Divine Revelation, then we would have to take the same interpretation with Deuteronomy and end the Scriptures at those verses. But that's not what Moses meant and that what St. John meant. He is not speaking of other things, like Tradition or the other books of the Bible, that could be inspired, but that those words are not to be changed.

The Bible itself needs Tradition

- † A great argument for Sacred Tradition is the canon of the Bible...the books in the Bible.
- † Ask, “Why do you believe that Matthew wrote the first Gospel...it's no where in the Bible? Why do you believe that the Letter to the Hebrews, the Gospel of Mark or Luke, etc. are inspired by God and should be in the Bible? No where in the Bible does it say what books are inspired and should be included? Why do you believe they are inspired?”
- † The only historically true answer is because of Tradition...because that is what the Church has believed and taught.

Where Do We Get The Bible? The Canon

- † The canon or list of the books of the Bible is a great argument against Sola Scriptura.
- † The question that cannot be answered by Sola Scriptura is, “Where in the Bible does it list what books are to be included?”
- † The Bible is not a single work that one man wrote, but a collection of many texts (histories, poetry, songs, genealogies, law books, letters, biographies, etc) written by many authors over an extended period of time.
- † If each book in the Bible doesn't say that it is inspired and should be included...then Protestants unknowingly have to rely on another source for an inspired, infallible canon...and that source is the Catholic Tradition.

The Development of the Canon

- † Numerous works were written by the early Christians (as well as Gnostics) in the first four centuries.

- † Among extant early witnesses to a developing Christian canon are the writings of Origin, and lists in Eusebius, Athanasius, Cyril of Jerusalem, Epiphanius, Chrysostom, Gregory of Nazianzus, etc.
- † From the sixtieth canon of the Council of Laodicia, held about the year 360 AD, we have the Church's first official list of Old Testament books. Still, this list omits a number of books that would eventually become part of the official canon.
- † Pope St. Damasus: makes an official decree in 382 AD, codifying the books of the Bible.
- † Not long after his Decree of 382, Damasus' successor Pope Innocent I also named the same corpus of forty-six Old Testament books in an encyclical of February 20, 405. Likewise the Plenary Council of Hippo in 393 had promulgated the same list of Old Testament books. Only four years later the Third Council of Carthage endorsed the same, as did the Fourth Council of Carthage in 419. And though these were not ecumenical councils, they nonetheless demonstrated an increasing consistency in the Church's official position.
- † The Council of Florence (1441) and the Council of Trent (1546) repeat this list.

Why do Catholic Bibles have more books in them?

- † The NT is the same but the Catholic Old Testament has seven more books called Deutero-canonicals.
- † There were two versions of the OT used at the time of Christ with differing canons...the Greek Septuagint and the Hebrew canon. The early Church mostly used the Septuagint in the New Testament.
- † The Jewish leaders in 90AD in Jamnia, reacted against Christians by rejecting certain books, especially those that contained Christian teachings (resurrection, prophecies of Christ, etc.) and selected the Hebrew canon as authoritative.
- † Christianity always used the Septuagint canon until the the Protestant reformers chose to go with the Hebrew canon...Luther tried and failed to throw out other books.

Apostolic Authority

Jesus' Mission - Sent by the Father

† The Word became flesh to reveal the Father, redeem humanity, give the ability to become adopted children of God, and send the His Holy Spirit (1 John 4:9-10, 2 Peter 1:4).

Jesus shares His mission & authority with the Apostles

† “And he appointed twelve, to be with him, and to be sent out to preach and have authority to cast out demons...” (Mark 3:14-15)

† “Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."” (John 20:21-23)

† “He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.” (Luke 10:16)

Jesus gives the Apostles power of binding & loosening

† To Peter - “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:19)

† To the Apostles - “Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:17)

The Holy Spirit is sent to Apostles to keep the faith

† “These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:25-26)

† “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” (John 16:13)

The Apostles speak with the authority of the Holy Spirit

† “For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things...” (Acts 15:28) see also Acts 5:1-10

† “As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions which had been reached by the apostles and elders who were at Jerusalem.” (Acts 16:4)

The Church is the Ark preserving Christ's Revelation

† “the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:15)

Apostolic Succession

Entrusted with the mission of Christ, the Apostles hand on their mission to their successors

† The Apostles give to Matthias the apostolic ministry of Judas

✦ “His office let another take.” (Acts 1:20)

✦ "Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show which one of these two thou hast chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside, to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was enrolled with the eleven apostles. (Acts 1:24-26)

† Paul is made an apostle, though not have the original qualifications (cf. Romans 1:1; Acts 1:21-22)

† Paul speaks to Timothy, a bishop - “Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.” (1 Timothy 1:13-14)

† “what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2)

† “And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they believed.” (Acts 14:23)...cf. Titus 1:5

† Qualifications for bishops, priests, and deacons

✦ cf. 1 Timothy 3:1,8 & 5:17

† This gift is conferred by the laying on of hands

✦ cf. 2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Timothy 4:14 & 5:22

Where is Christ's Church Today?

“This is the one Church of Christ which in the Creed is professed as one, holy, catholic and apostolic, which our Saviour, after His Resurrection, commissioned Peter to shepherd, and him and the other apostles to extend and direct with authority, which He erected for all ages as "the pillar and mainstay of the truth". This Church constituted and organized in the world as a society, subsists in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the Bishops in communion with him, although many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside of its visible structure. These elements, as gifts belonging to the Church of Christ, are forces impelling toward catholic unity.”

(Lumen Gentium 8)

The Catholic Church is One

- † She has preserved the one faith, free from error, for 2000 years.
- † One in her common celebration of divine worship
- † One in her line of apostolic succession, under the Pope, the successor of St. Peter

The Catholic Church is Holy

- † She has the full means of sanctification given by Christ - the Seven Sacraments
- † In her, the full gifts & charisms of the Holy Spirit can be found and are manifested
- † The thousands of martyrs and saints bear witness to the power of the treasure entrusted to her.

The Catholic Church is Catholic

- † She holds to the fullness of the faith
- † She is spread throughout the world - 1 billion Catholics, far larger than any other Christian group

The Catholic Church is Apostolic

- † We can trace an unbroken line of succession from Pope John Paul II to St. Peter
- † She has proven to have the charism of infallibility

Primacy of Peter

Christ “understood human nature,” and our need for structure and a single, final authority.

- † Seen in the structure of the original Twelve
- † Christ didn't want us to have any doubts about the means of salvation and the faith He died to give us. It is an amazingly beautiful gift to not have to worry about interpreting Greek words or knowing all the Scriptures to be able to know what the truth is.

Peter is clearly in a uniquely privileged position throughout the New Testament

- † “Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31-32)

- † “When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." (Jesus) said to him, "Feed my sheep.” (John 21:15-17)

Peter is made the rock upon which the Church is built and is given the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven

- † “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Christ is the King who is away from the Kingdom and places his prime minister in charge, to act with his authority in his place.” (Matthew 16:17-19)

- † Keys are a reference to Isaiah 22:15-24, Luke 11:52, and Revelation 1:17-18.

- † Peter is the Prime minister: Christ is the King who is away from the Kingdom and places his prime minister in charge, to act with his authority in his place. That's why we call the Pope, the “Vicar of Christ” the voice of Christ. (cf. Luke 10:16)

Petros / Petra debate

- † Some argue that the Greek uses *Petros* for Peter which means little rock and *petra* for the rock of the Church which means massive rock and is referring to faith in Christ, not Peter.
- † Jesus spoke Aramaic and would have used word *Kepha* for both, which means massive rock.
- † It wouldn't sound right to use feminine word for Peter.
- † Peter is called *Kepha* by Jesus in the John 1:42
- † St. Paul calls Peter *Kepha* four times in Galatians (1:18, 2:9, 2:11, 2:14) and four times in 1st Corinthians (1:12, 3:22, 9:5, 15:5)
- † in English, *Cephas* is a transliteration of *Kepha*
Peter is always mentioned first among the apostles
- † headed meeting which elected Matthias (Acts 1:13-26)
- † led Apostles in preaching on Pentecost (Acts 2:14)
- † received first converts (Acts 2:41)
- † received revelation to admit Gentiles into the Church (Acts 10:44-46)
- † led first council in Jerusalem (Acts 15:7)
- † pronounces first dogmatic decision (Acts 15:19)
- † Peter's name occurs 195 times, more than all the other apostles combined

Infallibility of the Teaching Office

What it is not - personal infallibility or sinlessness

What it is: freedom from error in teaching on faith and morals

The 3 Forms infallibility can take

- † 1. Pope alone speaking definitively on matters of faith and morals
- † 2. Ecumenical Council (pope & bishops together)
- † 3. Bishops in communion with the Pope
- † CCC 889 In order to preserve the Church in the purity of the faith handed on by the apostles, Christ who is the Truth willed to confer on her a share in his own infallibility.
- † CCC 890 It is this Magisterium's task to preserve God's people from deviations and defections and to guarantee them the objective possibility of professing the true faith without error. Thus, the pastoral duty of the Magisterium is aimed at seeing to it that the People of God abides in the truth that liberates. To fulfill this service, Christ endowed the Church's shepherds with the charism of infallibility in matters of faith and morals.

References

Sola Scriptura

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- † *Where We Got the Bible*, Bishop Henry G. Graham
- † *By What Authority?: An Evangelical Discovers Catholic Tradition* by Mark P. Shea
- † *Not By Scripture Alone: A Catholic Critique of the Protestant Doctrine of Sola Scriptura* by Peter Kreeft

The Holy Eucharist & the Sacraments

- † www.catholic.com/library\sacraments.html
- † *The Lamb's Supper : The Mass As Heaven on Earth* by Scott Hahn
- † *A Father Who Keeps His Promises : God's Covenant Love in Scripture* by Scott Hahn
- † *Preparing Yourself for Mass* by Romano Guardini
- † *The Blessed Eucharist : Our Greatest Treasure* by Michael Muller
- † *Evangelical Is Not Enough: Worship of God in Liturgy and Sacrament* by Thomas Howard
- † *This Is My Body: An Evangelical Discovers the Real Presence* by Mark P. Shea
- † *Eucharistic Miracles* by Joan Carroll Cruz
- † *The Secret of Confession* by Fr. Paul O'Sullivan – Tan Books
- † *Confession: A Little Book for the Reluctant* by Msgr. Louis Gaston de Ségur

Other Answers to Common Objections

- † www.catholic.com
- † www.scripturecatholic.com
- † www.catholic-pages.com
- † *Why Do Catholics Do That?: A Guide to the Teachings and Practices of the Catholic Church* by Kevin Orlin Johnson
- † *Born Fundamentalist, Born Again Catholic* by David B. Currie
- † *Catholicism and Fundamentalism : The Attack on Romanism by Bible Christians* by Karl Keating
- † *Catholic and Christian : An Explanation of Commonly Misunderstood Catholic Beliefs* by Alan Schreck
- † *Where Is That In the Bible?* by Patrick Madrid
- † *Catholic Pocket Evangelist: Biblical Outlines for Scripturally-Based Discussions of the Roman Catholic Faith* by Mario Romero

