



Sola Scriptura

Catholic Truth League
Friday Apologetics
2010 Anno Domini

One cannot look solely at Sacred Scripture while ignoring Sacred Tradition. They must be viewed together as they both move toward the same goal. Sacred Scripture is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit. Sacred Tradition transmits in its entirety the Word of God which has been entrusted to the apostles by Christ and the Holy Spirit. As a result the Church 'does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence' (CCC 80-2)

Quick Scripture

Proverbs 3:5
Matthew 16:15-19
Matthew 28:20
John 14:16-17
John 16:13
Acts 15:1-14
1 Corinthians 11:2
1 Timothy 3:15

The Bible and the Catholic Church

◇ The Canon of the Bible

- Old Testament: The Church accepts the Alexandrian canon (46 books) of the *Septuagint* that was translated into Greek in ~250 BC
 - Includes 1 and 2 Maccabees, Sirach, Wisdom, Baruch, Tobit, Judith, and parts of Daniel and Esther.
 - 86% of Old Testament quotes in the New Testament come from the *Septuagint*
 - “Then Joseph sent for his father Jacob, inviting him and his whole clan, seventy-five persons” Acts 7:14
- The Canon of Scripture (both Old and New Testament) as seen today was put together by the Catholic Church throughout the ages. The Council of Rome (382), Council of Hippo (393), both Councils of Carthage (397 & 419), the Council of Florence (1441) all approved a list of the OT and NT canon as it exists today.

◇ Private Interpretation vs. the Church's Interpretive Authority

- For each individual to have the chance to privately interpret the Scriptures, there are several necessities that must be met:
 - The existence of the printing press, the universal distribution of Bibles, literacy, access to scholarly materials, adequate time to thoroughly study Scripture, proper nutrition to be able to think clearly and correctly, and universal education in high level critical thinking skills.
- “Know this, first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God”-2 Peter 1:20-21
- “ **The task of authentically interpreting the word of God, whether written or spoken, has been entrusted exclusively to the living teaching office of the Church** ... This teaching office is not above the word of God, but serves it, teaching only what has been handed on, listening to it devoutly, guarding it scrupulously, and explaining it faithfully” *Dei Verbum*

◇ What is Sacred (Apostolic) Tradition?

- Two meanings: 1) the entirety of the faith passed down from the apostles, and 2) that teaching of the apostles not explicitly found in written form (i.e. passed orally)
- Public revelation ended with the death of the apostles, but this revelation continues to be *authoritatively taught and interpreted* presently by the magisterium (popes and bishops)
- NOT human tradition/customs (i.e. style of priestly dress, etc.)
- The Church is responsible for differentiating between human and Sacred Tradition



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