

Credo

Divine Revelation

Jesus Christ Is the Fullness of the Revelation of God

- I. Divine Revelation
 - a. Not everything we know comes through the use of human reason
 - b. Some things are supernaturally revealed
 - i. They are not illogical or against reason
 - ii. They cannot be proven by reason alone
 - c. **CCC 50**
- II. Example of natural reason and supernatural revelation
 - a. Natural reason - God exists
 - b. Supernatural revelation - God is a Trinity of Persons
- III. Table discussion questions
 - a. If reason by itself can get you to 'God exists,' why do you think so many people leave it at that and never go further? What's missing that only revelation supplies?
 - b. Is there a part of you that is more comfortable with a distant God you can reason your way to, than a God who reveals himself and asks something of you in return?
 - c. Think about the last real crisis you went through. Did you turn to God as someone real and present – someone actually invested and interested in you and your good – or did you just grit your teeth, mumble a prayer, and handle it yourself without really expecting him to respond?
- IV. **CCC 108**
- V. Jesus Christ is the fullness God's revelation
 - a. **CCC 67**
 - i. See handout 'Private Revelations'
 - b. **Saint John of the Cross, *Ascent of Mount Carmel*, 2, 22, 3-4** For, in giving us, as He did, His Son, which is His Word - and He has no other - He spake to us all together, once and for all, in this single Word, and He has no occasion to speak further.
 - c. Deposit of Faith transmitted in two modes
 - i. Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture
 - 1. **CCC 76**

Sola Scriptura

- I. Scripture does not contain the entirety of the Divine Person, Jesus Christ
 - a. **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.

- b. **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.
- II. *Sola Scriptura* is not taught by the Catholic Church
 - a. It is not historical
 - i. It is not practiced by the Jews in the Old Testament or Christians in the New Testament
 - ii. It is not practiced by Christians in the early or medieval Church
 - iii. First large scale use is by the Protestants in the 16th century
 - iv. It is not practiced or ever developed in the other Christian groups that can trace themselves back to the Apostles
 - 1. Eastern Orthodox
 - 2. Oriental Orthodox
 - 3. Assyrian Church of the East
 - b. It is not biblical
 - i. The Bible does not teach *sola Scriptura*
 - 1. *Sola Scriptura* refutes itself
 - ii. **2 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.
 - 1. This does not say that only Scripture does those things
 - 2. **2 Timothy 3: 14** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it.
 - a. Saint Timothy learned from Saint Paul orally too
 - c. It is not workable
 - i. It has never been successfully practiced in all its existence
 - ii. It does not achieve what it claims is its purpose

Church's Teaching on Scripture

- I. **2 Peter 1:16-18** For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.
 - a. Viewing Scripture as a Catholic
 - i. It is the very Word of God
 - ii. God is the author of Sacred Scripture
 - iii. God inspired the human authors of the sacred books
 - iv. The inspired books teach the truth

- v. Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teaches that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures
- II. **2 Peter 1:19** And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
 - a. Christ Entering into Your Hearts
 - i. Jesus is the morning star
 - ii. We receive Jesus through the Apostles
 - 1. **Matthew 28:19-20** “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 behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”
 - 2. **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.”
- III. **2 Peter 1:20-21** First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
 - a. Interpretation of Scripture
 - i. God is the author, therefore God is the authentic interpreter
 - 1. The Church has the authority to communicate this authentic interpretation
 - ii. Three criteria for interpreting Scripture
 - 1. *Be especially attentive “to the content and unity of the whole Scripture.”*
 - 2. *Read the Scripture within “the living Tradition of the whole Church.”*
 - a. **CCC Definition: Tradition**
 - b. Tradition is what the Church believes and has experienced
 - c. **CCC 83**
 - d. **2 Thessalonians 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.
 - e. **1 Corinthians 11:2** I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I have delivered them to you.
 - f. **Philippians 4:9** What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.
 - 3. *Be attentive to the analogy of faith.*
 - a. Creeds, doctrines, teachings of the Church

Magisterium

- I. **Matthew 16:18-20** “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my

Church, and the gates of Hades 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.”

- a. Peter is being made the prime minister of the new Davidic kingdom
 - i. Has the king’s (Jesus’) authority throughout his kingdom
 - ii. Is over everyone (even the other ministers) but the king
- b. Jesus promises to protect Peter’s teaching so it will be without error
- II. Authentically interprets God’s Word (Sacred Tradition or Sacred Scripture)
- III. Teaching office or teaching authority of the Church
- IV. Tells us by referencing Sacred Tradition what is the Canon of Scripture (what books are in the Bible)
- V. Peter/Pope has authority over the entire Church
- VI. Apostles/Bishops have authority over their local Church
- VII. Bishops united with the Pope have authority over the entire Church in an Ecumenical Council
 - a. Doctrines are not invented by the Pope or Ecumenical Councils
 - b. Doctrine does develop as our understanding of the Deposit of Faith deepens
- VIII. Apostolic Succession
 - a. **CCC 77**

Conclusion

- I. **CCC 95**

The Catholic Church

