

EQUIP

ROMAN CATHOLICISM PART 1:  
AUTHORITY

November 7th, 2010

# My Story

# The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, light from light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

# The Nicene Creed

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# Common Concerns

What is the difference between the Catholic Bible and Protestant Bible?

Why are the bibles different?

Do Catholics have a high view of the Bible?

Is the Pope infallible?

What is “church tradition” and why is it so important to Catholics?

Is Roman Catholicism a cult?

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 3 Church Councils that Defined Roman Catholicism

- 1. The Council of Trent - Dec 13th, 1545-Dec 4th, 1563**  
*- 25 Sessions, reactionary, call to reform*
- 2. Vatican 1 - Dec 8th, 1869 - July 18th, 1870**  
*- Reaffirming Trent*
- 3. Vatican 2 - Oct 11th, 1962 - Dec 8th, 1965**  
*- Loosening dogmatic language of Trent*

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 3 Sources of Unified and Complimentary Authority

1. Holy Scripture
2. Church Tradition
3. Magisterium

# The Reformation

# The Five Reformation “Solas”

*1. Sola scriptura ("by Scripture alone")*

2. Sola fide ("by faith alone")

3. Sola gratia ("by grace alone"),

4. Solus Christus or Solo Christo ("Christ alone" or "through Christ alone")

5. Soli Deo gloria ("glory to God alone")

# “Sola Scriptura!”

## Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms –

*"Unless I am overcome with testimonies from Scripture or with evident reasons -- for I believe neither the Pope nor the Councils, since they have often erred and contradicted one another -- I am overcome by the Scripture texts which I have adduced, and my conscience is bound by God's Word."*

## II Timothy 3:16

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 1. Holy Scripture:

**Canon:** *A list of Books accepted as the God's Words and deemed worthy to be in the "Bible"*

**The Jewish Old Testament:** *the 39 books of the Hebrew bible written in Hebrew and Aramaic & confirmed at the Jewish Council of Jamnia in 90AD*

**The Apocrypha (the "hidden" books):** *generally referring to Jewish literature written in Greek between Malachi (435BC) and the life of Christ. Labeled by Protestants as "useful but not inspired."*

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 1. Holy Scripture:

**The Deuterocanonical Books:** *Seven (ish) specific Jewish books written in Greek between Malachi (435BC) and the time of Christ. Canonized by the Roman Catholic Church at the Council of Trent in 1563 in response to the Reformation and in particular Martin Luther's categorizing them Apocryphal in his translation.*

**The Septuagint:** *39 books of the Hebrew OT along with the Deuterocanonical books written in Greek in 132BC.*

**Jerome's Latin Vulgate:** *a late 4th-century Latin version of the Bible, and largely the result of the labors of St Jerome, who was commissioned by Pope Damasus I to make a revision of the old Latin translations. By the 13th century this revision had come to be called the "versio vulgata", that is, the "commonly used translation", and ultimately it became the definitive and officially "approved" Latin version of the Bible in the Roman Catholic Church.*

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 1. Holy Scripture:

**According to the Council of Trent, the Roman Catholic Canon/Bible Consists of:**

- *66 Books of Protestant Bible; 39 OT, 27 NT*
- *7 Apocryphal books of Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, First and Second Maccabees*
- *Parts of Esther (10:14 to 16:14) and Daniel (3:24- 90; 13; 14).*

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 1. Holy Scripture:

*Roman Catholics have historically and intensely understood the Bible as both **inspired and infallible!***

81 "Sacred Scripture is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit."  
- Catholic Catechism

"Since therefore all that the inspired authors or sacred writers affirm should be regarded as affirmed by the Holy Spirit, we must acknowledge that the books of Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teach that truth which God, **for the sake of our salvation**, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures"  
- Vatican 2

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 2. Church Tradition

“...truth and discipline are contained in the written books, and the unwritten traditions which, received by the Apostles from the mouth of Christ himself, or from the Apostles themselves, the Holy Ghost dictating, have come down even unto us, transmitted as it were from hand to hand; (the Synod) following the examples of the orthodox Fathers, receives and venerates with an equal affection of piety, and reverence, all the books both of the Old and of the New Testament--seeing that one God is the author of both --as also the said traditions, as well those appertaining to faith as to morals, as having been dictated, either by Christ's own word of mouth, or by the Holy Ghost, and preserved in the Catholic Church by a continuous succession. And it has thought it meet that a list of the sacred books be inserted in this decree, lest a doubt may arise in any one's mind, which are the books that are received by this Synod. They are as set down here below:.....But if any one receive not, as sacred and canonical, the said books entire with all their parts, as they have been used to be read in the Catholic Church, and as they are contained in the old Latin vulgate edition; and knowingly and deliberately contemn the traditions aforesaid; let him be anathema.

- *The Council of Trent, 4th Session*

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 2. Church Tradition

**83.** The Tradition here in question comes *from the apostles* and hands on what they received from Jesus' teaching and example and what they learned from the Holy Spirit. The first generation of Christians did not yet have a written New Testament, *and the New Testament itself demonstrates the process of living Tradition.* Tradition is to be distinguished from the various theological, disciplinary, liturgical or devotional traditions, born in the local churches over time.

- *Catholic Catechism*

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 2. Church Tradition

**111** But since Sacred Scripture is inspired, there is another and no less important principle of correct interpretation, without which Scripture would remain a dead letter. "Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written."<sup>77</sup>

The Second Vatican Council indicates three criteria for interpreting Scripture in accordance with the Spirit who inspired it.<sup>78</sup>

**112** 1. *Be especially attentive "to the content and unity of the whole Scripture"*. Different as the books which compose it may be, Scripture is a unity by reason of the unity of God's plan, of which Christ Jesus is the center and heart, open since his Passover.<sup>79</sup>

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 2. Church Tradition

**113** 2. *Read the Scripture **within "the living Tradition of the whole Church"***. According to a saying of the Fathers, Sacred Scripture is written principally in the Church's heart rather than in documents and records, for the Church carries in her Tradition the living memorial of God's Word, and it is the Holy Spirit who gives her the spiritual interpretation of the Scripture ("... according to the spiritual meaning which the Spirit grants to the Church"<sup>81</sup>).

**114** 3. *Be attentive to the analogy of faith.*<sup>82</sup> By "analogy of faith" we mean the coherence of the truths of faith among themselves and within the whole plan of Revelation.

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 2. Church Tradition

42 "And *Holy Tradition* transmits in its entirety the Word of God which has been entrusted to the apostles by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit. It transmits it to the successors of the apostles so that, enlightened by the Spirit of Truth, they may faithfully preserve, expound and spread it abroad by their preaching."

43 *As a result the Church, to whom the transmission and interpretation of Revelation is entrusted, 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."

- *Catholic Catechism*

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 2. Church Tradition

The “**deposit of faith**” referring to the entirety of Jesus Christ's revelation which was passed forward to successive generations in two different forms:

1. Sacred Scripture (the Bible)
2. Sacred Tradition (handed down by apostolic succession).

Tradition is authoritative and true, yet evolving!

**Examples of Sacred Tradition:** *the veneration of Mary, her immaculate conception and her bodily assumption into heaven, inclusion of the apocrypha in the canon, praying to saints, purgatory, etc...*

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 2. Church Tradition

*Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not **in accord with the tradition** that you received from us. - 2 Thessalonians 3:6*

*So then, brothers, stand firm and **hold to the traditions** that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. - 2 Thessalonians 2:15*

*Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and **maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.** - 1 Corinthians 11:2*

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 2. Church Tradition

### Tradition as a Living Document:

**Vatican II (P.8)** “The Tradition that comes from the apostles *makes progress in the Church* with the help of the Holy Spirit. There is a growth in insight into the realities and words that are being passed on. *Thus, as the centuries go by, the Church is always advancing towards the plenitude of divine truth, until eventually the words of God are fulfilled in her.*”

**P.12)** “It is the task of exegetes to work, according to these rules, towards a better understanding and explanation of the meaning of Sacred Scripture in order that their research may help the Church to form a firmer judgment.”

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 3. Magisterium

Furthermore, in order to restrain petulant spirits, It decrees, that no one, relying on his own skill, shall,--in matters of faith, and of morals pertaining to the edification of Christian doctrine, --wresting the sacred Scripture to his own senses, presume to interpret the said sacred Scripture contrary to that sense which holy mother Church,--whose it is to judge of the true sense and interpretation of the holy Scriptures,--hath held and doth hold; **[Page 20]** or even contrary to the unanimous consent of the Fathers; even though such interpretations were never (intended) to be at any time published. Contraveners shall be made known by their Ordinaries, and be punished with the penalties by law established.

**- *The Council of Trent, 4th Session***

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 3. Magisterium

"The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, to the Pope and to the bishops in communion with him. The Magisterium has a role in deciding authoritatively which truths are a part of Sacred Tradition."

- *Catholic Catechism*

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 3. Magisterium

“As Catholics were responsible for writing the New Testament (under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit), the Catholic Church doesn't "interpret" the Bible. ***We explain it.*** Protestants can only ‘interpret’, because they are not the author (guided by the Holy Spirit), and therefore, can only **guess** at the possible meaning of a chapter, passage or phrase, just as anyone can only guess at any author's intentions in any other book. As the author, the Catholic Church is the only proper authority to consult in matters pertaining to the Bible.”

- *Catholic Catechism*

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## **3. Magisterium - from Vatican 2**

Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture form one sacred deposit of the word of God, committed to the Church. Holding fast to this deposit the entire holy people united with their shepherds remain always steadfast in the teaching of the Apostles, in the common life, in the breaking of the bread and in prayers (see Acts 2, 42, Greek text), so that holding to, practicing and professing the heritage of the faith, it becomes on the part of the bishops and faithful a single common effort.

***But the task of authentically interpreting the word of God, whether written or handed on, has been entrusted exclusively to the living teaching office of the Church, whose authority is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ.*** 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 in accord with a divine commission and with the help of the Holy Spirit, it draws from this one deposit of faith everything which it presents for belief as divinely revealed.

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 3. Magisterium

It is clear, therefore, that Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture and the teaching authority of the Church, in accord with God's most wise design, are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the others, and that all together and each in its own way under the action of the one Holy Spirit contribute effectively to the salvation of souls.

- Vatican 2

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 3. Magisterium

**1 Timothy 3:15** 15 but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 3. Magisterium

### Succession of Bishops

**John 20:21-23** 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 "If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained."

**Acts 1:24-26** 24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen 25 to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." 26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 3. Magisterium

**Papal Infallibility:** Papal infallibility was defined by Vatican I in 1870. The pope's infallibility in his "extraordinary magisterium" (teaching role) has been used only once since 1870—when Pope Pius XII solemnly defined in 1950 that belief in Mary's Assumption is part of Catholic faith.

**The Vote under Pope Pius IX on July 18, 1870 Vatican 1:**

- 533 for
- 2 against

# What is the Roman Catholic Authority?

## 3. Magisterium

### Papal Infallibility Cont...

Vatican I under Pius IX decided & Vatican 2 confirmed that the pope is infallible when, as the Church's supreme pastor and successor of Peter, he solemnly teaches some revealed truth about faith or morals ***ex cathedra*** (“***from the chair***”) ***in coordination with the Bishops***. On the contrary, decrees are binding, but not infallible.

*Ineffabilis Deus*, Pope Pius IX, 1854, defining the Immaculate Conception of Mary  
*Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII, 1950, defining the Assumption of Mary.

Historically, the church has held dogmatically to the teachings of former popes as rules of faith and conduct, though they are **not** “infallible” and can be abrogated (*i.e. Protestants as “separated brethren”*)

# Scripture, Tradition, & Magisterium

## SCRIPTURE

**96** What Christ entrusted to the apostles, they in turn handed on by their preaching and writing, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to all generations, until Christ returns in glory.

## TRADITION

**97** "Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God" (DV 10) in which, as in a mirror, the pilgrim Church contemplates God, the source of all her riches.

**98** "The Church, in her doctrine, life and worship, perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes".

**99** Thanks to its supernatural sense of faith, the People of God as a whole never ceases to welcome, to penetrate more deeply and to live more fully from the gift of divine Revelation.

## MAGISTERIUM

**100** The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, to the Pope and to the bishops in communion with him.

*- Summary statements from the Catholic Catechism*

# Truths We Agree On

- 1 God's Word is authoritative and our ULTIMATE standard for truth.
2. God's Word is infallible and innerant
3. There were extra-biblical Apostolic traditions passed on to succeeding bishops/elders/pastors
4. God has given bishops/elders to rule the church, teach the church, and to lead the church in doctrinal purity
5. Without authority we will destroy ourselves & divide, and often even with it.