

Immovable...We are Biblical, Trinitarian, Protestant. **What does it mean to be protestant?**

- Protestant = separated from the Roman Catholic Church | Reformation 16th century
 - 1517 – Luther 95 thesis | 1529 – Charles V demanded...protests...Protestant Born
- House – Crack– crack you might paint – if care about house, “What happened underneath?”**

- a. **30-100 AD: Apostolic Age** (Jesus’ crucifixion – death of last)
 - b. **100-313 AD: Early Church** (Christianity was illegal Targeted by rulers wipe out faith)
 - c. **313-590 AD: Imperial Age** (Edict of Milan – Constantine legalizes) | Nicaea – Constant
- Church moved from persecuted minority to publicly supported institution...Bishops Authority**
- 380 Roman Catholicism termed - religion delivered to Romans by divine Apostle Peter
 - 476 Rome Fell and the Catholic Church had power in the church and in the state
 - d. **590-1517 AD: Middle Ages** (Church intertwine w/ political power; Great Schism)
 - 1054 - Roman Catholic Church - Eastern Orthodox Church | West = Pope | East Counsel

Tradition & church authority increasingly overshadow Scripture

Salvation becomes sacramental & institutional rather than gospel, focused on Christ

- e. **1571 AD: The Reformation** – loyal Monk Martin Luther begs for a return to Scripture

95 Thesis = Repentance is Internal – Pope’s Power Limited – Gospel Free

- Luther wasn’t arguing for church to believe new, go back to Apostle’s teaching
- Leo X = Hersey & 60 days | Excommunicated (doomed) | Labeled an Outlaw...legally kill him
- What really sparked Luther was the sale of **indulgences** | **Fundraising St. Peter’s Basilica**

Luther viewed this for what it was...a works-based system of forgiveness...that a problem

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. | **Not Faith + Works | Faith Alone**

Big Idea - Receive and rest in Christ and His righteousness (London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689)

Work through five Sola’s = 3 - 16th | 2 – 20th | **Why Protestant...** Catholics in heaven despite

1. **God’s Word Rules Us – Sola Scriptura** (Scripture Alone)

What we are talking about is authority – Scripture alone or Scripture and Tradition

Catholic Church views Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition as two halves of a single whole

Tradition: “oral” word of God, handed down from Apostles through their successors bishops

They would say that the Scriptures are the Map and Tradition is the Compass...Holy Spirit

Acts 17:11 - Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so

- Bereans were discerning – Tested the Scriptures & Pastors...even Paul was examined
- Proves God’s Word is what we must **sift** every idea through – **books pope church trad**
- Ex Cathedra – seat of Peter...Papal infallibility – Full authority define doctrine / morals

Scripture is not validated by the church; the church is validated by Scripture

- Bereans didn’t ask, “Has church approved teaching?”...“Does this line up w/ Bible?”
 - Means = Scripture already had authority; church (leaders) stood under that **authority**
- Galatians 1:6-8** - I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed

- Human agency has no business adding to or subtracting from the Canonized Bible
- So why does the Catholic church have 73 books in their bibles and we only have 66**
- Apocrypha = Tobit – Judith – 1 & 2 Maccabees – Wisdom of Solomon – Sirach – Baruch**
- Books never used in the Hebrew Bible – Added to the catholic bible in 1546 Council of Trent
- Protestants we reject apocrypha as inspired and we reject tradition as being same authority**

2. **God’s Grace Saves Us – Sola Gratia** (Grace Alone)

Romans 11:6 - But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

One of primary differences between Catholics and Protestants = Sacraments vs Ordinances

Sacraments are visible signs of inward grace instituted by Jesus Christ and entrusted to the Church, through which divine life is dispensed to believers

Catholics 7 sacraments Categorized: Initiation – Healing – Service | Protestants have 2

Greatest Difference is Baptism – Protestants say external expression | Catholics say saves

The first sacrament, which cleanses original sin and welcomes the person into the Church

This makes salvation a work...and that’s a problem | We are not saved by works but grace

Titus 3:5 - he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

- Ordinances testify to grace already received – baptism & communion.
 - Sacraments, according Catholic doctrine are viewed as channels dispense saving grace
- Difference between tutor helping pass a class & firefighter pulling out of burning building**

3. **God’s Grace is Received by Faith – Sola Fide** (Faith Alone)

Galatians 2:16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Paul is hammering the Truth that our salvation is not because of our works...faith

Paycheck vs. Inheritance | Earn vs. receive | Scorecard | What about OT?

Romans 4:4-5 “For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

Two verses, Paul uses the language of the marketplace to explain the economy of Heaven

- Even in the Old Testament it was faith that was counted you as righteousness not works
- How did Abraham – Moses – David get to Heaven? Bu their faith in God...not works

Sharp contrast between two ways of standing before God: as a worker or as a believer

Believer who works for their salvation or a Believer who works because of their salvation

Here is as good a place as any to talk about Purgatory...third option between heaven & hell

- 2 Maccabees – Judas Maccabees prayed for the dead | **Mansion – Late – Boots**
- It is the ‘souls finishing school’ where you can earn purification before direct presence God
- During the time of indulgences, you could purchase a loved one out of purgatory
- Matthew 25:46** ‘And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’
- Purgatory is real as Narnia and works cannot save you in this life or the afterlife...only faith**

4. **God’s Son Redeems Us – Solus Christus** (Christ Alone)

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me - This may be one of the most powerful passages in all the Bible

- Jesus is our only way home – Jesus is not a path to take, but a person to trust
- We are protestant because we believe Jesus is the only one who can absolve sin**
- Confessional: Contrition – Confession – Absolution – Penance...walk this out**

“I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

1 Tim. 2:5 ‘There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus’

All of this is tied into what protestants believe the role of the church is vs the Catholics

Priesthood of the saints vs Catholic Priesthood

1 Peter 2:5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

In the Old Testament a priest was a bridge builder between God and man...destroyed

5. God's glory is the Ultimate Goal – Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone)

Psalm 115:1 "Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."

Isaiah 42:8 – "I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.

Rom. 11:36 – "For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever!"

- Makes God's purpose unmistakably clear – God saves His own sake, not about us – Him
- His glory not shareable, transferable, divisible. If God gave glory to another, no longer God.

Think of God's glory like spotlight. When fixed on the right place, everything makes sense

- Why Protestants reject veneration Mary or veneration of the saints

We do not pray to or worship any human dead/alive | we pray to God & worship God alone

Patron Saint: Jude = Lost Causes | Christopher = Travelers | Valentine = Lovers & Marriages

- When a Catholic prays to Mary...they are asking her to pray to God on their behalf. Why

Distinction: worship & veneration, Bible never permits prayer, reliance, devotion to anyone

What begins as honor easily becomes dependence, and dependence inevitably shifts glory

God does not share His glory—practically or devotionally

- So we honor Mary & the saints as examples—do not pray to them or rely on them

God alone saves, God alone hears, and God alone deserves glory.

1st Cor. 10:31 "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"

- a. Because God's Word rules us: Don't receive teaching passively—test everything by Scripture
- b. Because God's grace saves us: Stop trying to earn what God gives freely
- c. Because God's gift is received by faith: Drop the spiritual scorecard
- d. Because God's Son redeems us: Go straight to Jesus - When you sin, don't hide – run Christ
- e. Because God's glory is the ultimate goal: Keep the spotlight where it belongs

I know this is a lot. But this is not optional theology. These truths are immovable

- Remove Scripture, and authority collapses.
- Remove grace, and assurance disappears.
- Remove faith alone, and rest is lost.
- Remove Christ alone, and salvation becomes inaccessible.
- Remove God's glory, and worship becomes misplaced.

So why are we Protestant?

- Because God has spoken. Grace has acted. Faith is received.
- Christ has finished the work. And God alone gets the glory. So BI Let's pray