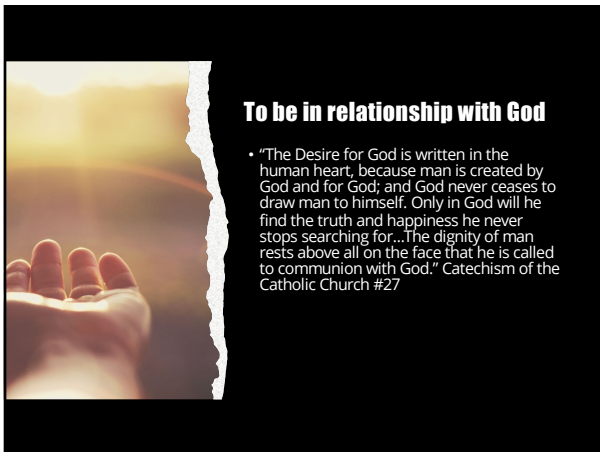




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2



3

To join a religion

What is your experience with “religion”?

What are your pre-conceived notions?

4

What is Religion?

Religion – root Latin word is “to bind”

Point of religion is to be bound to God.

Bound to God, but also bound to each other – Body of Christ.

Not to be bound as a slave, but bound to Him like in a marriage.

How you should look at OCIA – preparing to enter into marriage with God.

5

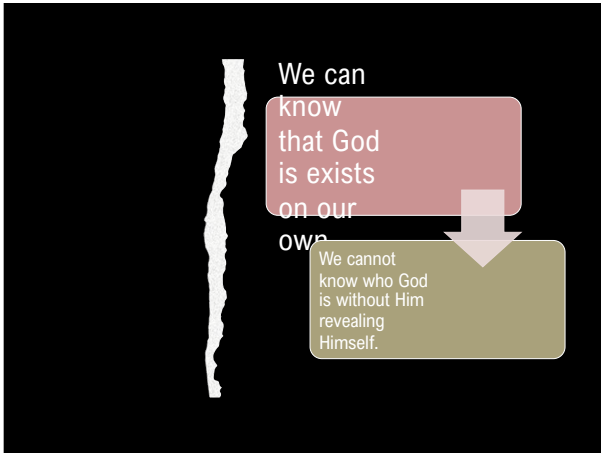
KERYGMA

- **Creation** - We were created for a relationship with God
- **Fall** - That relationship was damaged through sin (original sin)
- **Restoration** - Jesus comes to restore our relationship with the Father
- **Response** - It is up to us to either accept or reject what He's done for us.

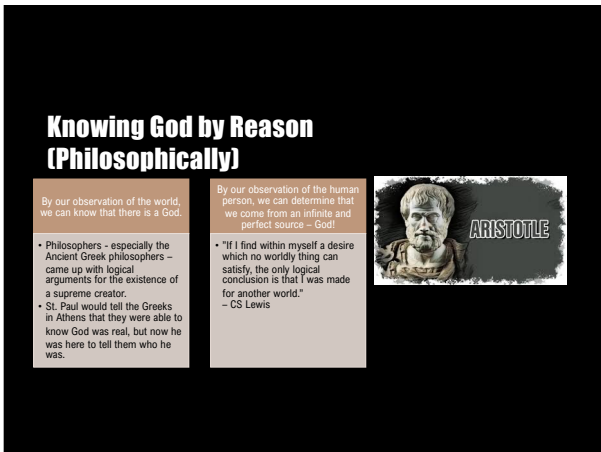
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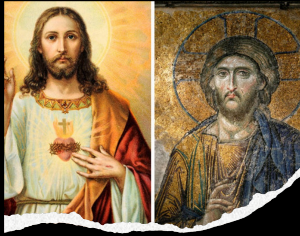
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9

Knowing God Through Revelation

- In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; ² in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe. (Hebrews 1:1-2)
- Jesus is the fullness of God's revelation to man.



10

God didn't need to reveal Himself to us. He chose to.

After the Fall of Man, God could have walked away. He didn't need to pursue the creatures who had so arrogantly rejected Him.

Instead, He chose to reveal **EVEN MORE** of Himself to us!

Exodus 3 – The importance of God revealing His name to us.

11

TWO Main Fonts of Revelation

- 1) Scripture – Bible – Word of God
 - Fr. Kaup will teach on this next week.
- 2) Sacred Tradition
- The Magisterium (the leaders of the Church) are the safeguard and interpreter of these fonts.

12



13

Sacred Tradition


- **Tradition:** it is the true Faith itself, given to the Apostles by Christ and faithfully transmitted to each new generation. (Catechism, 77-78)
 - Things that were passed on orally (St. Paul coming to a town & teaching the Faith).
- Jesus sent the apostles to teach the faith to the world. Those teachings were handed on in communities through practices, lessons, liturgies, etc... This forms part of Christ's teaching to the world!
 - Ex: The teaching on the Trinity was given and developed orally, though it is present in the Scriptures.
- Big T Tradition vs. Little t traditions
 - Big T doesn't change...dogma and teachings where passed on from the apostles and make up the deposit of faith
 - requires assent
 - ex: perpetual virginity of Mary
 - Little t traditions - can change
 - ex: specific fasting practices, prayers at Mass, etc.

14

What about "Sola Scriptura"?

- Sola Scriptura: a common Protestant belief that the only authentic revelation of God is through the Scriptures.
 - That "Scripture alone" is infallible and our sole authority on doctrine.
- Problems:
 - 1) It's not Scriptural. Nowhere in the Scriptures does it say everything needs to be in the Scriptures.
 - 2) Historicity: The New Testament wasn't present in much of the Church for the first hundred years.
 - 3) What books belong in the Bible? Who decides that?
 - 4) No one suggested Sola Scriptura for the first 1500 years of Christianity.

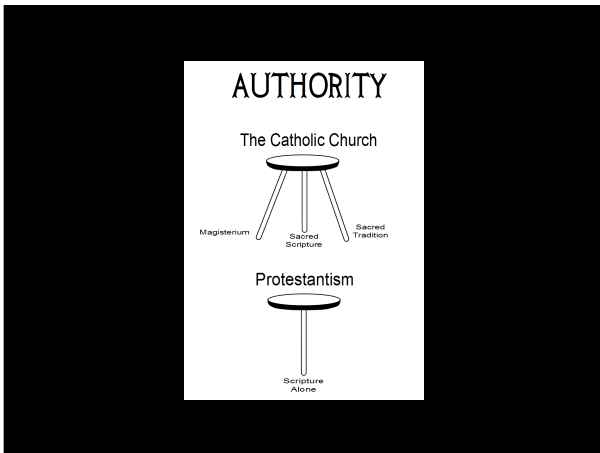
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Evidence from Scripture Against Sola Scriptura

- There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written. (Jn. 21:25)
- I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold fast to the traditions, just as I handed them on to you. (1 Cor. 11:2)
- Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours. (2 Thes. 2:15)

16



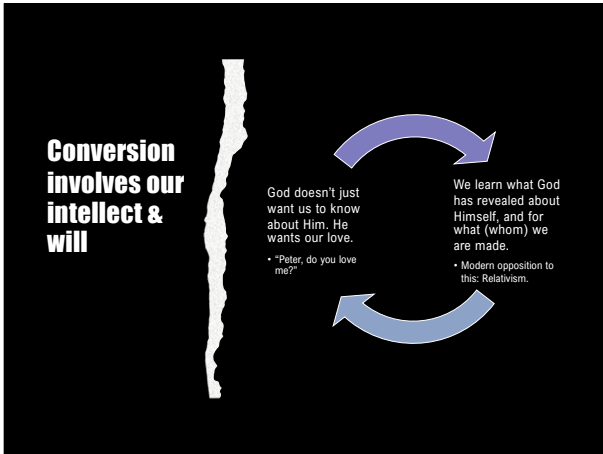
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Our Response to Revelation: Conversion

- Metanoia – A change of heart.
 - Calling of Matthew – Mt. 9:9-1
- -Conversion involves firstly hearing the voice of Christ: "Come, follow me."
 - -"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you."
 - -Our relationship with God is a response!

18



19
