

REACHING THE KINGDOM OF THE CULTS

Calvary Chapel Bozeman - School of Ministry

Introduction to Catholicism

Introduction:

At its core, Roman Catholicism teaches that salvation is mediated through the Church. God is viewed as Holy and sovereign, but His grace is distributed through the Church's sacramental system. The Magisterium and Sacred Tradition stand alongside Scripture as *co-equal sources of divine revelation*. In Roman Catholicism Truth is not derived from Scripture alone but from a combination of sources interpreted by the Church. Final judgment determined in part by one's standing with the Church. The foundational texts of Roman Catholicism include: *the Bible, the Apocrypha and a growing body of church tradition and magisterial teaching*.

The Reformation began in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This act challenged the practices of the Catholic Church and sparked a movement that led to the establishment of Protestantism. The 95 Theses were a work of 95 one-or two-sentence propositions for debate, written in Latin by Martin Luther and concerned many topics, including the topic of indulgences. The Five Solas of the Reformation are foundational principles of Protestant Christianity.

The Five Solas of the Reformation:

Sola Scriptura	(Scripture alone)
Sola Fide	(faith alone)
Sola Gratia	(grace alone)
Solus Christus	(Christ alone)
Soli Deo Gloria	(glory to God alone)

Chart of Fundamental Differences – Biblical Christianity & Roman Catholicism

Doctrine	Biblical Christianity	Roman Catholicism
Authority	Scripture Alone	Scripture + Tradition + Magisterium
Salvation	Faith Alone	Faith + Works + Sacraments
Justification	Instantaneous	Progressive
Christ's Role	Sole Mediator	Mediator; but access through Sacraments
Mary	Blessed woman	Sinless Co-Mediatrix

What The Bible Says About Scripture

“All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Note: In **2 Tim 3:16**, the Greek text literally reads that Scripture is *God-breathed (*theopneustos* = θεόπνευστος)

2 Tim 3:16-17 NKJV

“The Scripture cannot be broken”

John 10:35 NKJV

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one ***jot** or one ***tittle** will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

*Jot: Greek: iota, smallest letter in the Greek alphabet - Hebrew yod, the smallest letter

*Tittle: The smallest stroke in a Hebrew letter

Matt 5:17-18 NKJV

“Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven.”

Ps 119:89 NKJV

“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”

Deut 4:2 NKJV

“Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”

Deut 12:32 NKJV

“Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.”

Prov 30:6 NKJV

“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”

Rev 22:18-19 NKJV

What Catholicism Says About Scripture:

“Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence”

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 82, Pg. 26

What Catholicism Says About the Interpretation of Scripture:

“The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God...has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone”

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 85, Pg 27

What Catholicism Says About the Canon of Scripture:

The Bible has 66 books. The Catholic Bible contains 73 books.
The Catholic Bible contains 7 added books in the Old Testament.

The 7 Apocryphal books in the Catholic Bible are:

Tobit
Judith
1 Maccabees
2 Maccabees
Wisdom
Sirach
Baruch

These books are not considered canonical by Protestants.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 120, Pg 34