

The Bible *plus* Sacred Tradition

(underline emphasis added to quotes)

SACRED TRADITION is “The living transmission of the message of the Gospel in the Church.”¹

Divine Revelation comes to us in two parts: Sacred Tradition and the Bible.

- Sacred Tradition comes from “The oral preaching of the Apostles.”
- The Bible is “the written message of salvation under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.”

Together, both Sacred Tradition and the Bible:

“are conserved and handed on as the deposit of faith through the apostolic succession in the Church. Both the living Tradition and the written Scriptures have their common source in the revelation of God in Jesus Christ.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 75-82)

Consider these two passages of the Bible:

- “*But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth...*” John 16:13
- “*(God) is not the God of disorder but of peace...*” 1Corinthians 14:33

The implication of these two Scriptures is that God’s Spirit is not intending 30,000+ different Christian denominations to contradict one another on doctrine. The Catholic Church is the only Church that has consistently taught the same doctrine, in every century, that is given to us by the Apostles and is consistent with Sacred Scripture.

Scripture itself refers to Sacred Tradition and the role of the Church in protecting this “Deposit of Faith”:

“To this end he has (also) called you through our gospel to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 Thessalonians 2:14-15

“Guard the truth that has been entrusted to you.” 2Timothy 1:14

“We instruct you, brothers, in the name of (our) Lord Jesus Christ, to shun any brother who conducts himself in a disorderly way and not according to the tradition they received from us.” 2 Thessalonians 3:6

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold fast to the traditions, just as I handed them on to you.” 1Corinthians 11:1-2

“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 he received honor and glory from God the Father when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory, “This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. Moreover, we possess

¹ The Glossary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God.” 2 Peter 1:16-21

Jesus said: "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it." Mat 16:18

The Church is “the pillar and foundation of truth” 1 Timothy 3:15

“So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.” Acts 8:30, 31

“Now a Jew named Apol'los, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, well versed in the scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aq'uila heard him, they took him and expounded to him the way of God more accurately. Acts 18

“And consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, also wrote to you, speaking of these things as he does in all his letters. In them there are some things hard to understand that the ignorant and unstable distort to their own destruction, just as they do the other scriptures.” 2 Peter 3:15-16

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42

“And what you heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will have the ability to teach others as well.” 2 Tim 2:2

St. Ignatius of Antioch lived during the apostolic age. He is described as a disciple of St. John the Evangelist, was appointed as the third bishop of Antioch by St. Peter. St. Peter himself was the first Bishop of Antioch. Around 110 AD, while being lead to his martyrdom, St. Ignatius of Antioch wrote:

“But avoid divisions, as being the beginning of evils. Do ye all follow the bishop, as Jesus Christ doth the Father; and follow the presbyters as the apostles; and have respect unto the deacons as unto the commandment of God. Let no one, apart from the bishop, do any of the things that appertain unto the church.”

The Wisdom of God is made know through the Church, though His ministers

“...I became a minister by the gift of God's grace...to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known... . This was according to the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ...” Eph 3:7-9