

EVANGELISM TRAINING: Responding to Catholicism P.2

5 Things to Say to a Catholic — Adapted from Ron Rhodes

2. _____

Catholic Position — 3 Authorities

1. Scripture

- _____
- Includes _____ (also called _____)
(Tobit, Judith, 1 + 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, and additions to Esther and Daniel)
 - **CCC 120** — It was by the apostolic Tradition that the Church discerned which writings are to be included in the list of the sacred books. This complete list is called the canon of Scripture. It includes 46 books for the Old Testament (45 if we count Jeremiah and Lamentations as one) and 27 for the New.
 - **Council of Trent (Sources of Catholic Dogma) no. 784, p.245** — If anyone, however, should not accept the said books as sacred and canonical, entire with all their parts, as they were wont to be read in the Catholic church, and as they are contained in the old Latin Vulgate edition, and if both knowingly and deliberately he should condemn the aforesaid traditions let him be anathema.

Their Defense —

- Councils of _____ (AD 382), _____ (AD 393), _____ (AD 397), and _____ (AD 1546) affirm that Deuterocanonical Books should be included in the Bible
 - **Response: Jesus** _____ (39 OT Books)
 - _____ — ¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished
 - Hebrew Bible does not include _____
 - Rome, Hippo, and Carthage were regional not ecumenical councils—as theologians held disagreements on the Apocrypha

Christian Position —

- The Old Testament is _____
 - **Luke 24:44** — ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
 - Jesus affirms _____
 - **The Law:** Matthew 4:1-11, 5:17-18
 - **Prophets:** Matthew 13:13-15, Matthew 12:39-40
 - **Writings:** Luke 20:41-44, 24:44
 - Jesus Directly Quotes the Old Testament around _____
 - He _____ quotes the Apocrypha
 - New Testament Directly Quotes the Old Testament Around _____
 - It _____ quotes the Apocrypha

- God _____ the Canon; Humans Merely _____
 - Scripture is _____: Scripture bears certain qualities that show its divine origin
 - The church did not decide on the books of the Bible, but rather recognized their previously established canonicity
 - Tests of Canonicity:
 - 1. _____ — Written by an apostle or prophet?
Authenticated through miracles or predictive prophecy?
 - **Hebrews 1:1-2** — Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.
 - **Ephesians 2:19-20** — ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
 - **Deuteronomy 18:15-22 (vv.21-22)** — ²¹ And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the Lord has not spoken?’— ²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.
 - 2. _____ — Does it agree with known Scripture? Does it tell the truth about God?
 - **Deuteronomy 13:1-5** — “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, ² and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’ ³ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. ⁵ But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.
 - **1 Corinthians 14:33** — ³³ For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.
 - 3. _____ — Acknowledged as God’s Word by Jews and early church?
 - **Romans 3:2** — ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.
 - **1 Thessalonians 2:13** — ¹³ And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Catholic Position — 3 Authorities

2. Tradition

- Tradition is the _____
that have been passed down through the church _____
 - **CCC 78** — This living transmission, accomplished in the Holy Spirit, is called Tradition, since it is distinct from Sacred Scripture, though closely connected to it. Through Tradition, “the Church, in her doctrine, life, and worship perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes.” “The sayings of the holy Fathers are a witness to the life-giving presence of this Tradition, showing how its riches are poured out in the practice and life of the Church, in her belief and her prayer.”
- Tradition is to hold _____ with Scripture
 - **CCC 82** — 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.
 - **CCC 97** — “Sacred tradition and sacred Scripture make up a single deposit of the Word of God”
 - **Council of Trent (Sources of Catholic Dogma) no. 783, p.244** — The source of every saving truth and of instruction in morals, and [The Synod] clearly perceiving that this truth and instruction are contained in the written books and in the unwritten traditions, which have been received by the apostles from the mouth of Christ himself, or from the apostles themselves, at the dictation of the Holy Spirit, have come down even to us, transmitted as it were from hand to hand, [The Synod] following the examples of the orthodox Fathers, received and holds in veneration with an equal affection of piety and reverence all the books both of the Old and of the New Testament, since one God is the author of both, and also the traditions themselves, those that appertain both to faith and to morals, as having been dictated either by Christ’s own word of mouth, or by the Holy Spirit, and preserved in the Catholic Church by a continuous succession.
- “Capital T” Tradition (Sacred or Apostolic Tradition): _____
 - **CCC 83a** — 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.
- “Lowercase t” Tradition: _____
 - **CCC 83b** — Tradition is to be distinguished from the various theological, disciplinary, liturgical, or devotional traditions, born in the local churches over time. These are the particular forms, adapted to different places and times, in which the great Tradition is expressed. In the light of Tradition, these traditions can be retained, modified or even abandoned under the guidance of the Church’s magisterium.
 - “How can we know which traditions are apostolic and which are merely human? The answer is the same as how we know which scriptures are apostolic and which are merely human—by listening to the magisterium or teaching authority of Christ’s Church.” (<https://www.catholic.com/tract/scripture-and-tradition>)

Their Defense —

- A. The Bible _____
 - 1 Corinthians 11:2 — Now I commend you because you remember me in everything **and maintain the traditions** even as I delivered them to you.
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:15 — 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 3:6 — 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.
- **Response:**
 - 1. Tradition _____

 - It is used _____ in the New Testament when it refers to man-made ideas (**Mark 7:8, Galatians 1:14, Colossians 2:8**)
 - It is used _____ in the New Testament when referring to apostolic teaching (**1 Corinthians 11:2, 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:6**)
 - 2. The apostles for a time communicated their teaching orally _____

 - As a result, _____ (**2 Peter 1:19-21**)
 - If not — there would exist extra-biblical apostolic writings (which we don't find)
 - 3. Any tradition that conflicts with Scripture _____ (**Mark 7:7-9**)
 - _____ Catholic Tradition Examples:
 - Doctrine of Purgatory
 - Apostolic Succession
 - Penance and Selling of Indulgences
 - Holy Water
 - The Rosary
 - Veneration of Mary
 - Praying to the Dead
 - Confession to a Priest for Absolution of Sins
 - The Mass and Sacraments as Necessary for Salvation
- B. Not even the Bible argues for _____
 - **Response:** _____ is not a good argument
 - Ex: Trinity not explicitly stated but implicitly true (**Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 3:16,17, 28:19**)
 - Sola Scriptura is _____ (Sufficiency of Scripture)
 - _____ — ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 - Jesus viewed Scripture as _____ (**Matthew 4:1-7**)
 - No biblical warrant for there being a secondary source of infallible information or interpretation apart from God's direct revelation in his Word

Christian Position —

- Only the Bible is _____
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17** — ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 - **2 Peter 1:19-21** — ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
 - **Psalms 19:7-9** — ⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.
 - **John 20:30-31** — ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
 - **2 Peter 1:3-4** — ³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.
 - The Bible does not tell us _____ about Jesus and the apostles, but it does contain _____ to his people for faith and practice
- Tradition Can _____, but Must Never _____
 - We don't believe _____ — we should ignore the opinions and ideas of any church fathers, commentaries, or reformers
 - We believe _____ — Scripture is the only reliable, inerrant, and binding authority for faith and practice
 - We consult church history and tradition with the same careful suspicion as any of man's opinions — no Scripture warrants otherwise (rather says the opposite)
 - **Mark 7:8** — ⁸ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.
 - **Mark 7:9** ⁹ And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!"
 - **Mark 7:13** — ¹³ thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."
 - **Matthew 15:6** — ⁶ he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.

- Catholic Tradition Today is Similar to How the Jews “_____” (by adding extra-biblical commands)

- **Galatians 1:14** — ¹⁴ And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.
- **Colossians 2:8** — ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.
 - All “_____” is entirely contained within the New Testament

- Don't _____, _____, or _____ Equal to Scripture

- **1 Corinthians 4:6** — ⁶ I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.
- **Deuteronomy 4:2** — ² You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.
- **Proverbs 30:5-6** — ⁵ Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. ⁶ Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.
- **Revelation 22:18-19** — ¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

3. _____

Catholic Position — 3 Authorities

3. The Pope / Magisterium

- The Pope & Bishops are _____ (the first pope) through their office
 - **CCC 891** — “The Roman Pontiff, head of the college of bishops, enjoys this infallibility in virtue of his office, when, as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful—who confirms his brethren in the faith—he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals.... The infallibility promised to the Church is also present in the body of bishops when, together with Peter’s successor, they exercise the supreme Magisterium,” above all in an Ecumenical Council. When the Church through its supreme Magisterium proposes a doctrine “for belief as being divinely revealed,” and as the teaching of Christ, the definitions “must be adhered to with the obedience of faith.” This infallibility extends as far as the deposit of divine Revelation itself.
 - **CCC 869** — She is upheld infallibly in the truth: Christ governs her through and the other apostles, who are present in their successors, the Pope and the college of bishops.
 - **CCC 889** — In order to preserve the Church in the purity of the faith handed on by the apostles, Christ who is the Truth willed to confer on her a share in his own infallibility. By a “supernatural sense of faith” the People of God, under the guidance of the Church’s living Magisterium, “unfailingly adheres to this faith.” (92)
- Magisterium is the authority given _____ to _____ Christ’s teaching
 - **CCC 85** — “The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living, teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ.”
 - **CCC 86** — “Yet this Magisterium is not superior to the Word of God, but is its servant. It teaches only what has been handed on to it.
 - **CCC 88** — The Church’s Magisterium exercises the authority it holds from Christ to the fullest extent when it defines dogmas, that is, when it proposes, in a form obliging the Christian people to an irrevocable adherence of faith, truths contained in divine Revelation or also when it proposes, in a definitive way, truths having a necessary connection with these.
 - **CCC 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.
 - **CCC 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).

- Extraordinary Magisterium: _____
_____ (*ex cathedra*)
 - **CCC 2051** — The infallibility of the Magisterium of the Pastors extends to all the elements of doctrine, including moral doctrine, without which the saving truths of the faith cannot be preserved, expounded, or observed.
 - **CCC 891** — “The Roman Pontiff, head of the college of bishops, enjoys this infallibility in virtue of his office, when, as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful—who confirms his brethren in the faith—he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals.... The infallibility promised to the Church is also present in the body of bishops when, together with Peter’s successor, they exercise the supreme Magisterium,” above all in an Ecumenical Council. When the Church through its supreme Magisterium proposes a doctrine “for belief as being divinely revealed,” and as the teaching of Christ, the definitions “must be adhered to with the obedience of faith.” This infallibility extends as far as the deposit of divine Revelation itself.
- Ordinary Magisterium: _____
 - **CCC 892** — Divine assistance is also given to the successors of the apostles, teaching in communion with the successor of Peter, and, in a particular way, to the bishop of Rome, pastor of the whole Church, when, without arriving at an infallible definition and without pronouncing in a “definitive manner,” they propose in the exercise of the ordinary Magisterium a teaching that leads to better understanding of Revelation in matters of faith and morals. To this ordinary teaching the faithful “are to adhere to it with religious assent” which, though distinct from the assent of faith, is nonetheless an extension of it.
 - Even without an “ex cathedra” declaration, a teaching remains _____ and must be adhered to
- SUMMARY: _____ (Scripture, Tradition, and Magisterium)
 - **CCC 95** — “It is clear therefore that, in the supremely wise arrangement of God, sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture, and the Magisterium of the Church are so connected and associated that one of them cannot stand without the others. Working together, each in its own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they all contribute effectively to the salvation of souls.”
 - “Think of our three sources of authority as a three-legged stool. No single source is more important than any other and they all work together in a cohesive and unitive way. We should not cling to our pope more than our Scripture, nor do we ignore the beautiful smells and bells of liturgy that have been handed on to us in order to study Scripture day and night. Our Faith is dependent on all three, equally and simultaneously, which have been given to us as a gift of insurance from God, protecting the truth from our faulty human natures forever.”
(<https://www.corpuschristiphx.org/blog?month=202008&id=1012135831&cat=931661708#:~:text=Today, we'll take a,passing on of the Faith.&text=Catholics absolutely believe in and respect the authority of Sacred Scripture.>)
- The _____ synthesize the essentials of Catholic doctrine—from Scripture, Tradition, and Magisterium
 - **CCC 11** - This catechism aims at presenting an organic synthesis of the essential and fundamental contents of Catholic doctrine, as regards both faith and morals, in the light of the Second Vatican Council and the whole of the Church’s Tradition. Its principal sources are the Sacred Scriptures, the Fathers of the Church, the liturgy, and the Church’s Magisterium

Their Defense —

- A. Peter was the “_____” Jesus built the church on and was given “_____”
 - _____ — ¹⁸ And I tell you, **you are Peter, and on this rock** I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
- **Response:**
 - 1. Peter’s _____ was the rock — not _____
 - _____ — ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
 - Jesus is the theme of this passage not Peter
 - _____ — ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
 - _____ is the one given prominence, not Peter
 - The gates of hell don’t overpower the church because of _____, not any alleged “apostolic succession”
 - 2. “Keys of the Kingdom” refer to _____
 - The power to grant or deny access based on how people _____
 - _____ — ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
 - _____ — ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”
 - 3. Scripture never promised _____ to Peter
 - There have been _____ in the history of the Church.
 - Which one is true and which is the phony?
 - Which one can speak infallibly?
- B. Jesus said Peter’s faith would not fail, _____
 - _____ — ³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”
 - **Response:** Refers to Peter’s _____ after denying Christ
 - Once again, nothing close to alluding to infallibility
- C. The pope / bishops are _____ until the end of the age
 - _____ — ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
 - **Response:** This doesn’t require _____ — and doesn’t even closely allude to it
 - All that’s promised is that disciples will continually be made and that Jesus will be with them

- D. The Bible can't be _____ without magisterium
- **Response:**
 - 1. People are Encouraged to _____
 - _____ — 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.
 - 2. Rome's "explanations" need _____ themselves
 - Often more complicated than the Bible passages they "clarify"
 - 3. _____ in various church interpretations
 - Ex: Immaculate conception of Mary
 - 4. No Scripture speaks of a person or position in the church being _____

Christian Position —

- The Apostles Were _____ and Had No _____
 - **2 Corinthians 12:12** — The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.
 - **Ephesians 2:20** — ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
 - The apostles were crucial for the _____ — no further foundation is needed
- Peter was _____ and Not _____ to Other Apostles
 - **Galatians 2:11-14** — ¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"
 - Peter was fallible in _____
 - **2 Corinthians 12:11** — ¹¹ I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing.
 - Paul said he is not _____ to any apostle (including Peter)
 - **1 Corinthians 12:28** — ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.
 - No mention of a _____—why?
- The Pope / Church Leaders / Magisterium _____
 - **Galatians 1:8** — 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.
 - Ex: Galileo condemned of heresy in the Inquisition of 1632 (and punished to penance and house arrest), but later admitted error by Pope John Paul 2 in 1992
 - Ex: False teaching on justification—Look to Section 1

- **Acts 17:11** — 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.

- Not even the apostles claimed _____ themselves—their teachings should be measured against Scripture

- We are to _____ with Scripture and _____
_____ Ourselves

- **1 Thessalonians 5:21** — ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good.
- **1 John 4:1** — Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- **2 Corinthians 4:2** — ² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.
- **2 Timothy 2:15** — ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.