

# WHY CATHOLIC?: INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS

---

Opening Prayer: St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into Hell, Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

## Part I: Basics of Apologetics

1. Explaining and, if necessary, defending the faith. Differences of Christian & Catholic apologetics
2. 1 Peter 3:15-16: "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence." Not about winning arguments; sharing the truth.
3. Catholics & Protestants
  - a. What is a Protestant? Apologetics is not anti-Protestant.
  - b. CCC §818: "All who have been justified by faith in Baptism are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to be called Christians, ... The Catholic Church accepts them with respect and affection as brothers."
  - c. CCC §819: "Many elements of sanctification and of truth" are found outside the visible confines of the Catholic Church: "the written Word of God; the life of grace; faith, hope, and charity, with the other interior gifts of the Holy Spirit... Christ's Spirit uses these Churches and ecclesial communities as means of salvation, whose power derives from the fullness of grace and truth that Christ has entrusted to the Catholic Church."
4. Christian Unity
  - a. Christ intended his Church to be united; division is a scandal.
  - b. "I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one" (John 17:22-23).
  - c. St. Paul reaffirms Jesus' prayer in 1 Cor 1:10: "I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose."
5. Anthony's personal testimony: Dated a Baptist, quest for truth, love for Church, teach apologetics

## Part II: Why not Protestant?

1. Sola Fide - Faith alone justifies us, apart from good works
  - a. Luther rewrote Rom 3:28: "A person is justified by faith *alone* apart from works of the law."
  - b. James 2:24: "See how a person is justified by works and not by faith alone."
  - c. James 2:20: "Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that faith without works is useless?"
2. Sola Scriptura - Bible alone is infallible rule of faith and practice
  - a. Where's that in the Bible? Rejects Tradition and Magisterium
  - b. Sola Scriptura needed to protect Sola Fide
  - c. Catholicism says truth is based on three things: 1. Sacred Scripture, 2. Sacred Tradition, 3. Magisterium – Teaching authority of the pope and bishops
  - d. Problems with Sola Scriptura: 1. Self-contradictory (not in the Bible); 2. On the contrary, Scripture supports both Tradition and Magisterium; 3. Historically inconsistent
  - e. Scripture for Magisterium: Acts 15 – Council of Jerusalem and 1 Tim 3:15 Calls the Church the "pillar and foundation of truth."

---

Anthony Digmann – Catholic Speaker, Author, and Educator  
Connect with Anthony: AnthonyDigmann.com, Facebook, & Instagram

# WHY CATHOLIC?: INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS

---

- f. Scripture for Tradition: 2 Thessalonians 2:15: “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.” and 2 Thess. 3:6: “Shun any brother who conducts himself in a disorderly way and not according to the tradition they received from us.”
- g. Historically inconsistent: New Testament is dependent upon Tradition & Magisterium
  - i. Jesus didn’t say to go out and write
  - ii. Jesus provided his teachings orally and established an authoritative Church
  - iii. New Testament was written from Tradition
  - iv. Magisterium of the Church determined which books were to be considered inspired and included in the NT - One criteria was that it matched Tradition
- h. Luther: “This one will not hear of Baptism, that one denies the [Eucharist], another puts a world between this and the last day: some teach that Christ is not God, some say this, some say that: there are about as many sects and creeds as there are heads.”
- i. Fruits of Sola Scriptura are devastating: 1. Disagreements over interpretation of Scripture; 2. Division among the Christian family; 3. Turns people away from Christ

## Part III: Why Catholic?

- 1. Apostolic Succession: Power and Authority of Christ handed down; Hierarchy = Unity
  - a. Mt 18:18: “Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
  - b. St. Athanasius (360 AD): “Let us note that the very tradition, teaching, and faith of the Catholic Church from the beginning, which the Lord gave, was preached by the Apostles, and was preserved by the Fathers. On this was the Church founded; and if anyone departs from this, he neither is nor any longer ought to be called a Christian.”
- 2. Eucharist
  - a. Jn 6: 48-51: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”
  - b. Jn 6: 52-55: “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.”
  - c. St. Ignatius of Antioch (ca. 110): “They abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer, because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the Flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ.”
  - d. St. Cyril of Jerusalem (350 AD): “Do not, therefore, regard the bread and wine as simply that; for they are, according to the Master’s declaration, the Body and Blood of Christ. Even though the senses suggest to you the other, let faith make you firm. Do not judge in this matter by taste, but be fully assured by the faith....”
- 3. Miscellaneous
  - a. Bl. John Henry Newman (1801-1890): “To be deep in history is to cease to be Protestant.”
  - b. Resources: Catholic.com (Cat. Answers); CatholicsComeHome.org; AnthonyDigmann.com

Closing Prayer: Lord, Jesus, I praise your awesome majesty. I thank you for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Church, and the Sacraments. I ask you to open my heart and mind to the calling you have for my life. Form me into a great Saint of love and charity, always focused on the salvation of souls. Amen.

---

**Anthony Digmann – Catholic Speaker, Author, and Educator**  
Connect with Anthony: [AnthonyDigmann.com](http://AnthonyDigmann.com), Facebook, & Instagram