Class 5: Scripture & Tradition

What is the relationship between Scripture and Tradition? What is the difference between ***Tradition*** and ***tradition***?

**The Catholic faith is based on a three-legged stool, all of which make up the Word of God.**

Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium are so closely united with each other 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. First came Tradition, the oral teachings of Jesus and the Apostles.

“So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.” – Saint Paul (2 Thess 2:15)

**Scripture and the Magisterium (the teaching authority of the Apostles) are the source of the written Scriptures.**

The New Testament springs forth from the Traditions of the Apostles.

In keeping with the Lord's command, the Gospel was handed on in two ways:

**Orally** "…by the apostles who handed on, by the spoken word of their preaching, by the example they gave, by the institutions they established, what they themselves had received - whether from the lips of Christ, from his way of life and his works, or whether they had learned it at the prompting of the Holy Spirit" (CCC)

**In writing** "…by those apostles and other men associated with the apostles who, under the inspiration of the same Holy Spirit, committed the message of salvation to writing” Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, then, are bound closely together, and communicate one with the other. For both of them, flowing out from the same divine well-spring, come together in some fashion to form one thing, and move towards the same goal. Each of them makes present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ, who promised to remain with his own "always, to the close of the age" (CCC)

The truth cannot contradict itself, just as Christ cannot deceive.

**Therefore, Tradition and Scripture must harmonize in proclaiming the Gospel.**

- not *Sola* *Scriptura*, nor only Tradition, but both together.

The authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ. “This means that the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome.

**This Magisterium is not superior to the Word of God, but is its servant.**

It teaches ***only*** what has been handed on to it. (called the Deposit of the Faith)

**A.D. 367**

**The Screed Scriptures are composed of several books**

Those held to be of Divine origin in the Jewish religion - the “old” testament

Those held to be of Divine origin in the Christian religion - the “new” testament

The Old Testament is that set of books that were used as teaching references during Jewish religious celebrations in the synagogue. The New Testament is that set of books that were used as teaching references during the Christian Mass.

The Catholic Bible contains those books that were considered authoritative by the Jewish communities in Greece during the first two centuries of Christianity. The protestant Bible excludes a few books based on their interpretation of the authoritative list of inspired works during the 13th and 14th centuries. Many protestant Bibles will add the Catholic books under the title “Deuterocanonical” (second cannon or rule) or “apocryphal” (of doubted authenticity). The books of the New Testament were chosen by the Catholic Church to be used at Mass. Most protestant groups accept the same cannon of New Testament books.

***Tradition*** **is of Divine origin and cannot be changed**.

Tradition and Dogma are the same thing. They may be explained or lived out in slightly different ways, but the essence must remain the same. Things that are based on culture or practice are traditional, but not Tradition.

Example: The Virgin Birth is ***Tradition***, the language of the Mass is ***tradition***. If you cannot tell, just ask! (Magisterium)

CCC - Part 1; Section 1; Chapter 2; Article 2; paragraphs 74 - 100

***The Bible on the CHURCH***

Mt 16:18-19 - upon this rock I will build my Church

Mt 18:17-18 - if he refuses to listen even to Church

Mt 28:18-20 - go baptize and teach all nations

Mk 16:16 - go to whole world and proclaim gospel

Lk 10:16 - whoever hears you, hears me; rejects you, rejects me In 14:16, 26- Holy Spirit W/ you always, teach/remind everything In 16:12 - Spirit of truth will guide you to all truth

I Tim 3:15 - Church is the pillar & foundation of truth

***The Bible on the AUTHORITATIVE CHURCH***

Mt 28:18-20 - Jesus delegates all power to Apostles

In 20:23 - power to forgive sin

1 Cor 11:24 - power to offer sacrifice (Eucharist)

Lk 10:16 - power to speak with Christ's voice

Mt 18:18 - power to legislate

Mt 18:17 - power to discipline

St. Benaeus (c. A.D. 200): "...the Church, having received this preaching and this faith, although she is disseminated throughout the whole world, yet guarded it, as if she occupied but one house. She likewise believes these things just as if she had but one soul and one and the same hears; and harmoniously she proclaims them and teaches them and hands them down, as if she possessed but one mouth." Against Heresies 1, 10, 2. Of Believing 35.

Eusibius of Caesarea (4th c.): "But the brightness of the Catholic Church proceeded to increase in greatness, for it ever held to the same points in the same way, and radiated forth to all the race of Greeks and barbarians the reverent, sincere, and free nature, and the sobriety and purity of the divine teaching as to conduct and thought."

St. Augustine (A.D. 392): "The Catholic Church is the work of Divine Providence, achieved through the prophecies of the prophets, through the Incarnation and the teaching of Christ, through the journeys of the Apostles, through the suffering, the crosses, the blood and death of the martyrs, through the admirable lives of the saints.... When, then, we see so much help on God's part, so much progress and so much fruit, shall we hesitate to busy ourselves in the bosom of that Church? For starting from the apostolic chair down through successions of bishops, even unto the open confession of all mankind, it has possessed the crown of teaching authority."