

Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone):

Argument: The Catholic Church upholds both Scripture and Sacred Tradition as authoritative. Critics argue that only the Bible should be the ultimate authority in matters of faith and doctrine.

Bible References:

2 Timothy 3:16: *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*

Mark 7:8: *“For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.”*

Acts 17:11: *“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”*

Papal Authority and Infallibility:

Argument: The doctrine of papal infallibility lacks clear biblical support and elevates a human leader to a status that should be reserved for Christ alone.

Bible References:

Romans 3:23: *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*

Matthew 23:9: *“And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.”*

Catholic’s call their priest “Father”.

Veneration of Saints and Mary:

Argument: Praying to saints and venerating Mary conflicts with the biblical directive to worship and pray to God alone.

Bible References:

1 Timothy 2:5: *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”*

Exodus 20:3-5: *“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them”*

Luke 11:27-28: When a woman praises Mary, Jesus replies, *“blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.”*

Salvation and Works:

Argument: The Catholic emphasis on sacraments and good works as necessary for salvation is contrasted with the belief in salvation by faith alone.

Bible References:

Ephesians 2:8-9: *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

Romans 3:28: *“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”*

Galatians 2:16: *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”*

Confession to Priests:

Argument: Requiring confession to a priest for absolution is unnecessary since believers can confess directly to God.

Bible References:

1 John 1:9: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Hebrews 4:16: *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

Psalms 32:5: *“I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.”*

Addition of Deuterocanonical Books:

Argument: Including additional books not recognized in the Hebrew Scriptures introduces doctrines not supported elsewhere in Scripture.

Bible References:

Revelation 22:18-19: *“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any*

man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

Proverbs 30:5-6: *“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”*

Luke 24:44: *“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me”*

Doctrine of Purgatory:

Argument: The concept of purgatory is seen as lacking biblical support and undermining the completeness of Christ's atonement.

Bible References:

Hebrews 9:27-28: *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”*

Celibacy of the Clergy:

Argument: Mandatory celibacy for priests is unbiblical and may contribute to issues within the clergy.

Bible References:

1 Timothy 3:2: *“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;”*

1 Corinthians 9:5: *“Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?”*

Hebrews 13:4: *“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”*

Argument: The belief that the bread and wine become the literal body and blood of Christ is symbolic rather than literal.

Bible References:

John 6:63: *“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”*

Luke 22:19: *“And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.”*

1 Corinthians 11:26: *“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.”*

Emphasis on Tradition Over Scripture:

Argument: Catholic traditions sometimes take precedence over biblical teachings, potentially leading to unbiblical practices.

Bible References:

Colossians 2:8: *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”*

Matthew 15:6: *“And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.”*

Isaiah 29:13: *“Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:”*

Interpretation of Key Biblical Passages:

Argument: Verses like Matthew 16:18 are interpreted to establish papal authority, but may not support such claims when examined closely.

Bible References:

1 Corinthians 3:11: *“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

Ephesians 2:20: *“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”*

Matthew 16:18: *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

1 Peter 2:4-8: “To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

⁵Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

⁶Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

⁷Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

⁸And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”

Critics argue that rock (Petra) refers to Jesus here and not Peter (Petros). Petra means a very large rock in Greek while Petros means a piece of a rock that is a much smaller in size.

Church of God is the body of Jesus and several other verses mentions Jesus as the Rock, so it can only be Jesus who is the rock in Matt 16:18.

The Role of the Mass:

Argument: The Catholic Mass is viewed as a re-sacrificing of Christ, which contradicts the biblical teaching that Christ's sacrifice was once and for all.

Bible References:

Hebrews 10:10: *“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

Hebrews 7:27: *“Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.”*

1 Peter 3:18: *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins,”*

Claims of Exclusivity:

Argument: The Catholic Church's claim to be the one true church is seen as exclusionary and not supported by Scripture.

Bible References:

Romans 10:12-13: *“For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

1 Corinthians 12:13: *“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”*

Matthew 18:20: *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”*

Use of Religious Art and Statues:

Argument: The use of statues and images in worship may violate the commandment against graven images.

Bible References:

Exodus 20:4-5: *“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;”*

Deuteronomy 4:15-16: *“Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the Lord spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,”*

Leviticus 26:1: *“Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the Lord your God.”*

Veneration of Relics and Indulgences:

Argument: Practices like venerating relics and the historical sale of indulgences lack biblical support and can mislead believers.

Bible References:

Acts 8:20: *“But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.”*

Matthew 6:19-20: *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.”*

Isaiah 55:1: *“every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”*

Here are ten proofs that Peter was probably never even in Rome—and therefore could not have been the first pope:

(1) Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles (Rom. 15:16; Gal. 2:7) not Peter. Rome was a Gentile city.

(2) The Emperor Claudius had banished all Jews from Rome in AD 50 (also see #9 below).

(3) Peter went to Babylon—in Mesopotamia (I Pet. 5:13).

(4) Paul would never have written what he did in Romans 1 (the book was written in AD 55), verses 11 and 15—clear insults to Peter if he had been faithfully serving there for thirteen previous years (from AD 42), particularly if it had been as pope. Actually, a “Peter,” Simon Magus (see the account in Acts 8), was there. It was this Simon (not Simon Peter) who was the Pater (or Peter), which means “a father.” (Paternity and patriarch come from this word.) Simon Magus was already by this time the leading figure in the early apostate church at Rome.

(5) Romans 15:20: The apostle Paul declared that he would not preach (or write) upon any other man’s foundation. Yet, Paul wrote the letter to the Romans. Thus, Peter could not have laid the foundation of the Roman congregation.

(6) Romans 16 contains thirty different salutations, yet Peter, supposedly the resident “pope” there, was not greeted by Paul. Think of what a grievous slight this would have been had he been present. Paul’s epistle did not even acknowledge Peter.

(7) Galatians 1:18-19 and 2:7 demonstrate that Peter was based at Jerusalem, from where he periodically traveled to places like Bithynia, Northern Galatia and Babylon, and other places where Israelites (also see #9) had migrated, from AD 38 to AD 49—the dates of these events described in Galatians.

(8) Notice Luke 22:24. Related to these points, if Peter was already designated to be the future pope, why did the disciples argue among themselves about which of them was the greatest?

(9) Galatians 2:7 reveals that Peter took the gospel to “the circumcision”—the Jews, and the other tribes of Israel, referenced in #7. (See Matthew 10:5-6.)

(10) II Timothy 4:10-11 mentions that Paul wrote from Rome and records that “only Luke was with him”—obviously this eliminates Peter.

source: [Where Is the True Church? - and Its Incredible History!](#)

Annual Holy Days of the Bible

Leviticus 23:1-2 calls these Sabbaths “feasts of the Lord.” The terms Holy Day, High Day and Feast Day are all found in the Bible and are synonymous with one another. They are all terms for the annual Sabbaths. They picture the Plan of God, as they are kept each year in sequence.

The two Holy Days known as the First and Last **Days of Unleavened Bread** were kept by the early New Testament Church (Acts 12:3; 20:6) in conjunction with the Lord’s Supper—the New Testament Passover. In late spring is the Day of Pentecost.

Four more annual Sabbaths are kept in the fall. They are known as the **Feast of Trumpets** (Rosh Hashanah to the Jews), **the Day of Atonement** (Yom Kippur), **the Feast of Tabernacles** (Succoth) and the **Last Great Day**.

The Passover (not an annual Sabbath) shows God’s mercy through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is the one feast that is not an annual Sabbath.

The seven days of unleavened bread depict the Christian coming out of sin, just as Israel came out of Egypt after the first Passover of Exodus 12. The first and last days are Sabbaths, pentecost, or the Feast of

Firstfruits, representing the early spring harvest in Israel, portrays the first resurrection—of true saints (the firstfruits of God’s Plan)—at Christ’s soon-coming Return.

The feast of trumpets depicts Christ’s coming to the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4; I Thes. 4:16; Matt. 24:31). The day of atonement (“at-one-ment”) pictures the whole world finally “at one” with God, because Satan will have been sent to the outer heavens where he can no longer deceive the nations.

The feast of tabernacles depicts Christ’s 1,000-year reign on Earth with the saints—and a time of peace, happiness, abundance and prosperity for a world that has not known this for 6,000 years. This seven-day feast is immediately followed by the last great day, which represents a time at the end of the millennium when the remaining great majority of all human beings who have ever lived will be given a full opportunity to know God’s truth and Plan of Salvation. (You may read our booklet *Does the Bible Teach Predestination?* to learn the overview of God’s Master Plan!)

US Catholic Holy Days of Obligation for 2024

This leaves us with six holy days of obligation outside of Sundays. The following feast days are holy days of obligation in the U.S. for 2024:

Solemnity of Mary: Monday, January 1

Ascension of Jesus: Thursday, May 9 — Celebrated on the sixth Thursday after Easter Sunday

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Thursday, August 15

Solemnity of All Saints: Friday, November 1

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Monday, December 9**

Christmas: Wednesday, December 25

<https://www.omvusa.org/blog/catholic-holy-days-of-obligation/>

Italian Saint Days

December 26, The Feast of St. Stephen.

April 29, Feast of St. Catherine of Siena.

June 13, St. Anthony of Padua.

June 24, St. John the Baptist.

June 29, Saints Peter and Paul.

July 15, St. Rosalia.

July 26, The Feast of St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

August 10, The feast of St. Lorenzo.

“Is Saturday the seventh day according to the Bible and the Ten Commandments?

I answer yes.

Is Sunday the first day of the week and did the Church [Roman Catholic] change the seventh day—
Saturday—for Sunday, the first day?

I answer yes.

Did Christ change the day?

I answer no!

...Faithfully yours, J. Cardinal Gibbons.”

Simon the sorcerer and the Catholic Church

Acts 8:9-11

“But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

¹⁰To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

¹¹And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.”

Acts 8:12-13

“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

¹³Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.”

Acts 8:14-17

“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

¹⁵Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

¹⁶(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

¹⁷Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 8:20-23

“But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

²¹ Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

²² Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

²³ For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

²⁴ Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.”