

Catholic vs Protestant: What Difference Does It Make?

Class 2: How Is Scripture Valued?

A. Sola Scriptura

1. What it is “*not*”

- a. Not the claim that the Bible contains all knowledge
- b. Not the claim that the Bible is an exhaustive catalogue of religious knowledge
- c. Not a denial of the authority of the church to teach truth
- d. Not a denial that the word of God has been a *spoken* word
- e. Not a rejection of every form of tradition
- f. Not a denial of the role of the Holy Spirit as Interpreter

2. What is sola scriptura?

- a. Scripture is the sole infallible rule of faith
- b. Scripture contains *all* that one must believe to be a Christian
- c. Any religious claim *not* found in Scripture is *not* binding
- d. Scripture reveals all things essential for salvation
- e. All traditions subject to the higher authority of Scripture

B. The Relationship of Scripture and Church Tradition

1. The attributes of Scripture

- a. Rome = necessary but not authoritative, sufficient and perspicuous

2. Catholicism = Sola ecclesia

- a. “Partim-partim”
- b. The Roman Formula = “scripture + tradition + magisterium”

C. Why Can’t Catholics and Protestants Reunite?

1. The issue of authority

- a. How many sources of revelation?

2. The issue of canon

- a. Did the church create the canon or the canon create the church?

3. The issue of interpretation

- a. Is there a sinless reader of the sinless text?