

WHY I AM NOT A CATHOLIC
Part 1: False Authority
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- I. Roman Church's Doctrine of Authority
 - A. Teaches a three-fold SOURCE of authority (*Catechism*, p. 5)
 1. "Sacred SCRIPTURE"—defined as "46 books for the Old Testament...and 27 for the New" (*Cat.* p. 40)
 2. "Apostolic TRADITION"
 - a. Described as the continuing "teaching authority" passed from the APOSTLES to the "BISHOPS as their successors" (*Cat.* 30)
 - b. Defined as the "living transmission" embodied in "the sayings of the holy FATHERS" (*Cat.* p. 30)
 3. "The CHURCH'S Magisterium"
 - a. Defined as "the POPE and...the BISHOPS in communion with him" (*Cat.* p. 35)
 - b. Described as those to whom "The task of INTERPRETING the Word of God AUTHENTICALLY has been entrusted SOLELY" (*Cat.* p. 35)
 - B. Objects to relying on BIBLICAL authority
 1. "The Bible is NOT the sole rule of FAITH" (Karl Keating, *Catholicism and Fundamentalism*, p. 134)
 - a. Begs the question by not PROVING statement
 - b. CONFLICTS with whole tone of Scripture
 - c. CONTRADICTS clear statements of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18)
 2. "The Bible actually DENIES it is the COMPLETE rule of faith" (Keating, p. 136)—assumes "apostolic succession," then applies passages relating to the teaching of the Apostles to the on-going ministry of the POPE and BISHOPS

3. "The Church tells us the Bible is inspired, and we can take the Church's word for it precisely because the Church is INFALLIBLE" (Keating, p. 136)—Circular reasoning, claiming BIBLICAL authority for the Church's infallibility to declare the Bible AUTHORITATIVE
4. "The Church existed BEFORE the Bible. The Church MADE the Bible. Therefore: a) the Church is OVER the Bible; b) the Church has GREATER authority than the Bible" (Keating, "How to Talk to Fundamentalists" tract)—backward chronology: Since FAITH comes by hearing the WORD of GOD (Rom. 10:17), the CHURCH is the community of believers CREATED by the WORD OF GOD

II. The Roman Church's Dilemma

- A. Impossible to have more than one ULTIMATE authority
- B. Makes final authority not SCRIPTURE, but the Pope and bishops
- C. Contradiction: appealing to the BIBLE as their authority to prove one cannot appeal to the BIBLE as a final AUTHORITY
- D. Contradiction: appealing to the BIBLE for doctrine while charging us with error for appealing to the BIBLE for AUTHORITY
- E. Contradiction: appealing to the BIBLE to prove the POPE and the CHURCH are more authoritative than the BIBLE

III. Biblical Doctrine of Authority

- A. The final appeal to authority in the Bible is always to SCRIPTURE
 1. The PROPHETS (Is. 8:20; Jer. 25:13; Dan. 9:11, 13; etc.)
 2. The LORD (Mt. 4:4, 6, 7, 10; Lk. 10:26-28; etc.)
 3. The APOSTLES (Acts 1:20; 23:5; etc.)
 4. The CHURCH (Acts 7:42; 15:15; etc.)
- B. Such an appeal to "TRADITION" is expressly CONDEMNED (Mt. 15:2, 3, 6; Mk. 7:3, 5, 8, 9, 13; Gal. 1:14; Col. 2:8; 1 Pet. 1:18; cf. 2 Thes. 2:15; 3:6)