

REVELATION AND TEACHING OF THE CHURCH
SESSION 5
OCTOBER 21, 2021

Prayer: Come Holy Spirit

Image: St. Peter with keys to the Kingdom

Homework: Prayer Survey

GOD’S REVELATION THROUGH TIME:

God, according to His Wisdom, chose not to reveal Himself entirely at once, but rather, revealed Himself over time, in a deliberate and ordered way through human history.

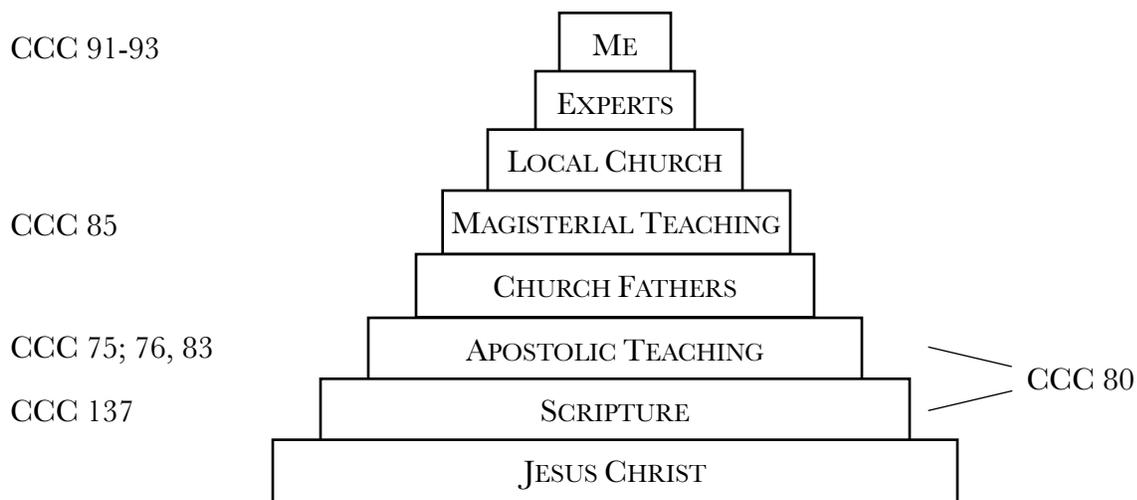
CCC 54 God makes Himself known to Adam and Eve, our first parents

Covenant with Noah: God reveals His plan of sanctity for humanity and that He has a desire, therefore a plan, for restoration of humanity.

Abraham: In calling one man, God begins to reveal the path of Righteousness and desires to first present Himself to one person. Through Abraham, He will then reveal Himself to a chosen nation.

The Nation of Israel: Because of His Goodness, God chose Israel to be a vehicle of salvation and revelation to the world. Scripture says and our nightly prayers remind us of Israel’s place as a “Light to the Reveal You (God) to the Nations”. Through their history, the patriarchs, priests, prophets and saints God is revealed.

Jesus Christ: The fullness of the revelation of God.



Scripture:

The word of God and therefore, truly the word of God

The Canon includes 46 books in the Old Testament, 27 books in the New Testament

The Old Testament includes the canon accepted by the Jews at the time of Christ

The Canon of the New Testament was established by Pope Damasus in 382

*Sacred scripture provides the foundation for the revelation of God. As it has been accepted as the word of God, no legitimate teaching or belief can be contradictory to what is present in Sacred Scripture. This does not mean, however, that nothing can be claimed that is not explicitly contained within scripture. See 2 Thess. 2:15.

CCC 81: Scripture is the speech of God

CCC 137: What God wants to reveal to humanity, which is what is necessary for our salvation.

Jesus Christ:

Jesus Christ is the fullness of the Revelation of God and the Word preceded the writing of the Sacred Scriptures. He is therefore, both the purpose of scripture and test of scripture.

Thus, one of the primary factors in determining the Canon of the New Testament was what was known and testified to about the life of Christ.

CCC 65; 74

Christ is the fullness of Revelation

CCC 66: There is no further revelation.

Therefore, if something in purported scripture were to contradict this revelation, it could not be considered as Scripture. This is the reason many of the so called *Gnostic Gospel* are not in the Bible.

Apostolic Teaching:

The authentic teaching of the Apostles. Because these were the men chosen by Christ and received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, their teachings hold prime of place. All apostolic teaching ceased with the death of the last of the Apostles.

Church Fathers:

The term *Fathers of the Church*, refers specifically to approved and recognized theologians up to 700 A.D. While their teaching does not itself carry any moral obligation of belief, they provide the foundation of tradition and are recognized in the development of some of the essential and most significant doctrines of the Church. For example, during this period, many questions were raised regarding the divinity and humanity of Christ. Scripture does not fully explain the relationship between the two. The heresy of Arianism, which was a widely held belief by many Christians, taught that Christ was the supreme man, like a superman, who was close to God, but not actually God. There were other issues, like the question of whether or not the God of the Old Testament was the same as the God of the New Testament. Many of the questions that the Church Fathers struggled with are things that we commonly take as obvious truths. This is why they play a unique and foundational role in the Development of Doctrine.

Magisterial Teaching

CCC 85: The Magisterium is charged with giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God.

CCC 86: “this Magisterium is not superior to the Word of God, but is its servant.”

Within the teaching of the Church, there is a hierarchy of belief:

Dogma (CCC 89): Beliefs that are directly revealed in scripture and are infallible

Doctrine: Beliefs that come as a natural use of reason from scripture and may or may not be infallible.

Ex. The perpetual virginity of Mary; Infant Baptism, Priesthood reserved to men.

Sacred Tradition: Truths passed down by the Apostles that although not written, hold authority similar to Doctrine:

Canon of Scripture

The Assumption of Mary

Mass as a Sacrifice

Infant Baptism: Attested to by Origen as being taught by the Apostles.

Teaching on Faith and Morals

This is the formal teaching authority of the Church constituted by the Pope and the Bishops in union with him. The authority comes from Christ, carried down through the Apostolic character, or mark, of the Church. **see handout on Magisterium.** The authority is a matter of interpreting Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, which is known as the *Deposit of Faith*. As it falls from Scripture and Tradition, it can never contradict either. With regard to matters of faith and morals we consider the Magisterial Teaching of the Church to be infallible, that is when the Pope, in union with the Bishops interprets Sacred Scripture or Sacred Tradition in a way that is not contrary to either, these truths are infallible. Note, that the Pope cannot teach infallibly on his own accord and it is with regard to a limited area.

Local Church

The local Church is the official Church in a specific, or local area. Such as the Local Church that is present in the Diocese, or even in a parish. When we consider the authority of the Local Church, we consider the jurisdictional authority of the one speaking. A Bishop has jurisdiction within his Diocese over certain matters, but the authority does not extend to other Dioceses. A pastor has jurisdiction over his parish on certain matters. A national conference, like the USCCB is not a local Church. Thus, they possess no real authority, but by the cooperation and mutual respect of the Bishops of the nation.

Experts

As in any field or profession, we recognize experts who have received training and possess particular aptitudes for teaching, study, etc. When we consider the authority or degree to which a theologian or group possesses, like a popular writer (Jeff Cavins, Scott Hahn, Richard Rohr, Matthew Kelly, etc.) we have to consider all of the levels underneath (excluding the Church Fathers who may be considered as a unique set of experts with pride of place). If they write or teach contrary to Magisterial Teaching, Apostolic Teaching, Sacred Scripture, or Christ, then we would consider such teaching as false.

Magisterial Teaching

CCC 85: The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God. . .

Three Levels:

Truths taught as divinely revealed

ex. Marriage between man and woman

God as the Holy Trinity

Definitively proposed matters closely connected to Divine truths

ex. The perpetual virginity of Mary

The Ordination of men

Teaching on faith and morals

Applying Divine truths to specific questions of faith and morals

Requires religious adherence.

ex. Use of birth control

Local Church:

National Bishop's Conference

Local Bishop

Priest

Experts

Theologians

Professionals and Academic Professors

Trained Catechists