

#### 4. Foundational beliefs of Christianity are the result of the Church...

A common objection to many teachings of the Catholic Church is that it cannot be explicitly found in the Bible.

- However, many teachings/words, not specific to Catholicism, cannot be found explicitly in the Bible as well, including:

**Bible:** No official list of inspired books is in the Bible. How do you know which books should go in?

**Trinity:** This is the belief that there is one God, existing in three Persons: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Incarnation:** This is the belief that the 2nd Person of the Trinity “became flesh” in the Person of Jesus Christ.

**Homo-ousios:** This is the Greek word meaning “same substance,” or “consubstantial,” and refers to our belief that Jesus is God in the same sense that the Father is God.

**Mother of God:** While Mary is clearly the mother of Jesus, it took the Church Council of Ephesus in 431 AD to define this title.

- It was the Church who developed these beliefs, based on what the Bible says *implicitly*, what it implies.

#### 5. A book that relies on its own authority is illogical...

The belief of *Sola Scriptura* or “Scripture alone” is an example of a circular argument, which is an argument that relies upon itself to prove itself. This begs the question and is a logical fallacy because it assumes the conclusion it claims to prove.

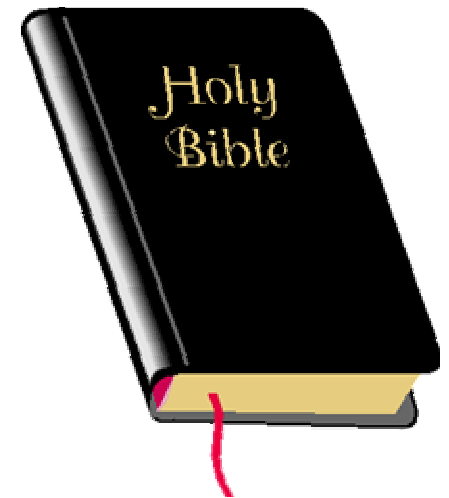
Basically, the argument is this:

- The Bible is the Word of God --> How do you know?
- Because it says it is? --> How do you know it's telling the truth?
- Because it's the Word of God. --> How do you know?
- ...
- This logic would not work for anything else in life, why would it work for the Bible?

**For example:** If I told you I was the President of the United States, you would have no reason to believe me unless *some other* source of authority corroborated my claim.

The same is true for the Bible. Even if the Bible claimed to be the written Word of God, you have no reason to believe it unless another source of authority, the Church, backs up the claim.

*Whose interpretation is it anyway?*



## 5 Reasons

why *Sola Scriptura*, or “Scripture alone,” is wrong

## 1. *Sola Scriptura* is un-Scriptural...

Look through the entire Bible and one thing you are sure **NOT** to find is a verse that encourages one adhere to the “Bible alone” (*Sola Scriptura*).

In fact, the early Christians used “extra-biblical” writings of Jewish scholars (the *Torah*) to interpret the words of the prophets in realizing that Jesus was the coming of the long awaited Messiah.

While there are many verses that encourage reading the Bible and using it to shape one’s thinking, this does not mean it is the **ONLY** way one can, nor does it mean that understanding the Bible cannot be shaped by other sources, namely the Church

- Jesus chose 12 Apostles. Jews recognized this a clear reference to the 12 tribes of Israel, an **authoritative, governmental body** (*Mat. 10:2-4*).
- Jesus said, “**tell the Church**” when Christians disagree with one another (see *Mat. 18:17*).
- The Gospel of John attests to **un-written teachings of Jesus** in *Jn. 21:25*.
- St. Paul calls the church, not the Bible, the “**pillar and foundation of truth**” in *1 Tim. 3:15*.

Finally, consider that Jesus never chose a “scribe” to record every word He said or thing He did. Jesus is a preacher and teacher, not a writer.

## 2. Though the Bible condemns human tradition, it commends Apostolic tradition...

Many will cite *Matthew 15:1-9* to argue against the use of “tradition”. However, **Jesus was not condemning all traditions** outright, but only the ones that undermine “the commandment of God”.

- In fact, the Gospels refer to Jewish tradition when identifying Jesus as the Messiah when it called Him “Nazarean” (see *Mat. 2:23*).
- Jesus also cites tradition when referring to the “**chair of Moses**” in *Mat. 23:2*, endorsing religious authority
- St. Paul also tells Christians to “**hold fast to the traditions that you were taught**” by “oral statement” (see *2 Tim. 2:15*)
- Finally, the book of Jude refers to a Jewish tradition about Moses (see *Jude 1:9*), endorsing the use of tradition to shape beliefs.

## 3. The Bible itself is a product of the Church...

Because we live nearly 2,000 years after the formation of the Bible, we may take for granted how the Bible came to be.

The Bible did not fall, prewritten, from the sky into the laps of the Apostles after Jesus ascended to heaven. It was written by human hands, and it was the **Church who decided which books were inspired by the Holy Spirit** and should be included in the “canon,” or list, of Scripture.

It was not the Apostles who decided which books would be in the Bible, but a collection of bishops, through a directive of the Pope, in the **Church Council of Carthage in 397 AD**.

This is where and when the Bible, as we know it, was put together.

It was the Church who commissioned **St. Jerome**, a bishop, to translate the Bible into a language the common people could read and understand.