

# PRACTICAL APOLOGETICS

*Winning people, Not arguments!*

*1Peter 3:15*



## **Defining Terms:**

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### **Apologetics:**

A defense or justification of a Christian teaching

### **Catechesis:**

Teaching Christian doctrine to make disciples  
(CCC glossary)

### **Ecumenism:**

Promotion of the restoration of unity among all Christians  
(CCC glossary)



## We need to develop a culture of evangelism:

### **Page 51, *Forming Intentional Disciples***

Asked whether spreading the faith was a high priority of their parishes, 75 percent of conservative Protestant congregations and 57 percent of African American congregations responded affirmatively, whereas only 6 percent of Catholic parishes did the same.

Asked whether they sponsored local evangelistic activities, 39 percent of conservative Protestant congregations and 16 percent of African-American congregations responded positively as compared with only 3 percent of Catholic parishes.



## We need to develop a culture of evangelism:

**CONFIRMATION:** Jesus gave us an entire sacrament for the primary purpose of equipping us to be witnesses for Jesus.

1303 From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace: - it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross:

1304 ... Confirmation ... is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness.

1305 This “character” perfects the common priesthood of the faithful, received in Baptism, and “the confirmed person receives the power to profess faith in Christ publicly and as it were officially.”



## We need to develop a culture of evangelism:

### **Biblical Perspective**

1Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence; and keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.



## **6 Principles of apologetics:**

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1. Love is our primary method
2. Start with common ground
3. Understand their position (and your position)
4. Stay on topic
5. Make sure you are biblical and historical
6. Root everything in Jesus



## 6 Principles of apologetics:

### **1. Love is our primary method**

1. CCC 25 – The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching must be directed to the love that never ends. Whether something is proposed for belief, for hope or for action, the love of our Lord must always be made accessible, so that anyone can see that all the works of perfect Christian virtue spring from love and have no other objective than to arrive at love.
  2. Matthew 22:34-40 – greatest commandments
  3. Mt 7:12 – do to others what you would have them do to you
  4. Romans 13:8-10 – Owe no one anything, except to love one another
- 
2. Start with common ground
  3. Understand their position (and your position)
  4. Stay on topic
  5. Make sure you are biblical and historical
  6. Root everything in Jesus



## 6 Principles of apologetics:

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1. Love is our primary method

### **2. Start with common ground**

1. Agree as long as possible

2. Acts 21:39-22:5 – Jews

3. Acts 17:22-29 - Gentiles

3. Understand their position (and your position)

4. Stay on topic

5. Make sure you are biblical and historical

6. Root everything in Jesus



## 6 Principles of apologetics:

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1. Love is our primary method
2. Start with common ground
- 3. Understand their position (and your position)**
  1. Acts 7, Phillip preaches to the Jews, he knows the story of Israel
  2. Acts 17:22-29 - Gentiles
4. Stay on topic
5. Make sure you are biblical and historical
6. Root everything in Jesus



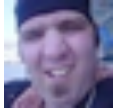
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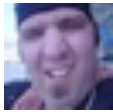
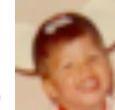


# ~ Dialogue in Action ~



I have been studying the reformation how bout you 😊

What's the best anti Catholic thing you've learned about the reformation?



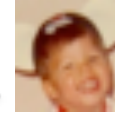
oh yah and how about the Church Being Over the Bible as in authority



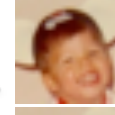
~ Dialogue in Action ~

Question: How about the Church being over the Bible in authority?

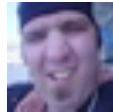
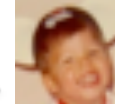
First, the Catholic Church is very explicit that it can not contradict scripture.



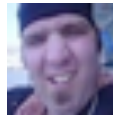
Here's the first question...



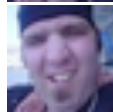
Which came first the Church or the New Testament?



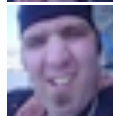
john1:1



1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.



the word



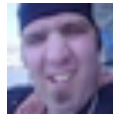
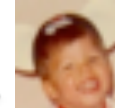
came first



## ~ Dialogue in Action ~

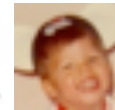
### Question: How about the Church being over the Bible in authority?

John 1:1, came before the Church? I'm not talking about Jesus. He clearly is before all things. The question was, which came first, the New Testament or the Church?

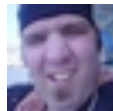


isn't the NT the word

Your question was about the Church and the Bible, not the Church and Christ

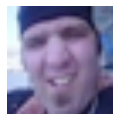
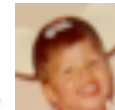


You're saying the New Testament existed from all eternity?



I think I am

The Word is the second person of the Trinity. He has existed from before time.



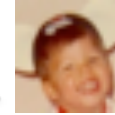
just like the OT



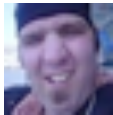
~ Dialogue in Action ~

Question: How about the Church being over the Bible in authority?

Let's try again. There is no question that Jesus is the Word of God. The fullness of revelation.

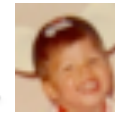


But what came first the written record of the teachings of Jesus or the Church?

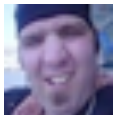


just for the sake of argument lets say the church came first

Ok.

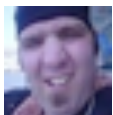
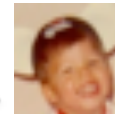


Just for the sake of argument... 😊



lol

The next question is, we both believe that the New Testament is the inerrant, inspired written word of God.



y



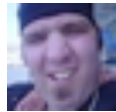
## ~ Dialogue in Action ~

### Question: How about the Church being over the Bible in authority?

We know that the New Testament is without error.

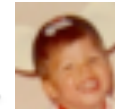


because it is inspired by God



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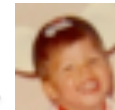
The next question is, since there is no table of contents in the New Testament, how did the Church know what books belonged in the New Testament?



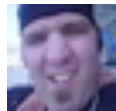
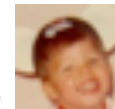
Meaning, none of the books of the NT say, "Make sure to add these books in the Bible."



Along with that, a little history perspective is required. Until the canon of Scripture was finalized there were a number of different books that were considered Scripture and used as such, in addition to the current books in the NT.



Also, many of the NT books were disputed for a long time as to whether or not they should be considered Scripture.



Apocrypha?

**Topic Jump**



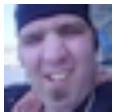
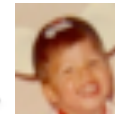
~ Dialogue in Action ~

Question: How about the Church being over the Bible in authority?

We're just dealing with the NT for the moment. There is no difference between the Catholic and Protestant NT.



The next question is, since there is not table of contents in the New Testament, how did the Church know what books belonged in the New Testament?



Well, they held counsel to decide I guess.

Very true. But how could men make an infallible decision about the New Testament?

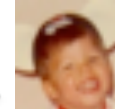




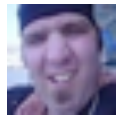
~ Dialogue in Action ~

Question: How about the Church being over the Bible in authority?

The Church teaches that she is guided by the Holy Spirit, but that it still requires authoritative decisions to be made by people.

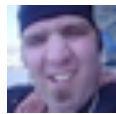


The Holy Spirit didn't assemble the New Testament on His own.

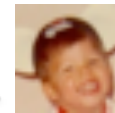


through tradition and and very stringent rules

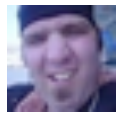
So you're saying that tradition is over the Bible?



bait, hook. arrrr



no problem. These are tough questions.



good conversation though



## 6 Principles of apologetics:

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- 5. Make sure you are biblical and historical**
  - 1. The Church Fathers are the Interpretive Lens to Scripture**



6. Root everything in Jesus



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#### **1. CT 5 – Definitive Aim of Catechesis**

The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ:

#### **2. CT 6 – Teach everything in relation to Jesus**

in catechesis it is Christ, the Incarnate Word and Son of God, who is taught - everything else is taught with reference to Him

#### **3. Phil 2:1-11 – be like Jesus**

#### **4. Phil 3:1-14 – strive for Jesus above all else**



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