



1

Denominations

1. A brief history
2. What do they believe about authority and tradition?
3. How are they organized or structured?
4. What do they believe about justification?
5. What do they believe about the process of sanctification?
6. What do they believe about the canon?
7. What do they believe about the sacraments?

2

Roman Catholicism

Two Foundational Tenets of the RC Theological System

- Grace-nature interdependence
- The Christ-Church interconnection

Authority and Tradition

- Tradition | Dual-source (*partim-partim*)
 - Scripture and tradition are parallel, equal authorities containing distinct material, both of which are necessary to know the full counsel of God.
- Tradition | Material Sufficiency
 - Scripture contains all the material necessary to live rightly before God but isn't discernible without the authoritative interpretive tradition of the church.

3

Roman Catholicism

- Authority
 - Ordinary Magisterium – what the church's bishops in their teaching roles have taught throughout church history
 - Extraordinary Magisterium
 - Conciliar Magisterium – teaching resulting from a special gathering of bishops
 - Pontifical Magisterium – the Pope having consulted with the cardinals, speaks *ex cathedra* (“from the chair”)
 - All three are believed to be equally infallible and authoritative, being preserved by the Holy Spirit for the task of teaching on matters of faith and practice for the church.

4

Roman Catholicism

Government and Structure

- Pope – Supreme Pontiff, Vicar of Christ on Earth, successor of Peter
- Bishops – Authority over particular dioceses
 - Cardinals – Seniors most bishops given a lifetime appointment by the Pope who are tasked with aiding the pope in counsel, helping govern the worldwide church and electing new Popes.
 - Archbishops – no difference in authority or rank from a “regular” bishop but used to designate a bishop over a diocese in a larger or more important city (i.e., an “archdiocese”). Same authority/rank, more prestige as a title.

5

Roman Catholicism

- Priests
 - Diocesan – local church pastors
 - Promises of chastity, obedience to bishop and daily prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours
 - Religious – vows of poverty, chastity and obedience
- Deacons – Assists priests with Mass
- Laity

6