



The Reformation “Alones”

**We get right with God
by grace alone through faith alone
in Christ alone to God’s glory alone.**

We know this is true because the Bible says so!

Romans 3:22, 24 & 27, NIV
This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe...justified freely by his grace...Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded.

The Other Reformation “Alone”

“Scripture Alone” has the final say on what’s true.

Your Word is truth – John 17:17, NIV

**Roman Catholicism embraces Scripture as truth,
but rejects “Scripture alone.”**

Scripture Plus Tradition!

The Roman Catholic Church elevates Tradition (developing doctrine) to the level of Scripture.

Vatican II

The church moves toward the fullness of divine truth...Scripture and Tradition make up a single deposit of the Word of God.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 82

Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.

“The Church Alone”

Roman Catholics believe that their Magisterium (teaching office) has the final say on what’s true.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 85 & 95

The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the church alone.

It is clear, therefore, that in the supremely wise arrangement of God, sacred Scripture, sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium of the Church are so connected and associated that one of them cannot stand without the others.

Martin Luther Protested!

“Scripture alone” is necessary because the church can err. God has given us an infallible Bible, not an infallible church!

Matthew 15:6 & 9, ESV

So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the Word of God...teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

The authority of the church must be subordinate to the final authority of Scripture.

Roman Catholicism's Concern

"Scripture alone" leads to "Me alone"!

Every individual Protestant becomes his or her own Magisterium, reading the Bible in the way that is right in their own eyes.

The Reformer's Response

The Priesthood Of All Believers

The Roman Catholic Church is not "catholic" enough!

The church as a whole is a checks-and-balances interpretive community.

I am more likely to believe the truth and avoid falsehood if I believe what WE believe than if I try to figure out what to believe in a way that is independent of US.

Kevin Vanhoozer, Biblical Authority After Babel

Scripture Alone: Our Protestant Heritage

While God has not used the Church to ADD anything to Scripture itself, God does use the Church to AID our understanding of his Word!

Acts 8:30-31 & 17:11, NIV

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I?", he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

And the people of Berea...listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.
