

Fr. Bryan Theology Series Class 6

Brief Historical Overview:

33-313 CE: One small persecuted church of Jews and Gentiles

313 to 1054 CE: One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church

1054-1517 CE: Great Western Schism

1517-1648 CE: Protestant Reformation and Counter Reformation

1648-Present: Enlightenment, Great Awakening in America, Vatican II.

Three areas that form church: Creed (grounded in Scripture), Sacraments, Leadership.

Apologetic Considerations:

1. Eucharist: Transubstantiation, Sacrifice, Holy Orders, Body Blood Soul and Divinity of Jesus fully present. See Mt. 26, Mk 14, Lk 22, Jn. 6, 1 Cor 10-11.
2. Mary: Immaculate Conception and Assumption. Jn. 19:25. Apparitions private revelation. Rosary as meditation
3. Saints: Models for holiness. Intercession for us. Earliest church venerates.
4. Sacramentals: Creation is good because comes from God can be used for Grace. (Holy Water, medals, relics, ashes, holy cards, statues, etc.)
5. Purgatory: 1 Pt. 3:19 (Jesus went to preach to the spirits in prison) 2 Mac 12:46 (Pray for those dead so to be loosed from sins. (Trinity and Incarnation not in scripture). Justice issue. Limbo not taught. Hell exists. Indulgences
6. Confession: Jn 20:22-23. Reconciled with God through Jesus and the church.
7. Resurrection of the Body/Second Coming: Jesus is the model and teacher.
8. The Pope: Mt 28:19-20 and Jn. 16:13. First Among Equals. Infallibility only if definitive teaching act on faith/morals.
9. Celibate Priesthood: Eschatological sign, service to church, Jesus model. 1 Cor 7:8, Mt. 19:12, 29. Disciplinary rule not doctrine. Common and ministerial priesthood.
10. The Bible: New Jerusalem, New American, New Revised Standard Version. Teaches us truth about God, Jesus, Holy Spirit and humanity/covenant. Levels of interpretation: literal, spiritual, Christocentric, anagogical.
11. Faith and Works: Phil 2:13. God's grace saves but works express our faith and keep us close to God's will/holiness.
12. Angels/Satan: Exist in hierarchy of being as mentioned in scripture as purely spiritual beings.
13. More information: wordonfire.org, catholic answers, CCC, Catholicism (McBrien), etc.