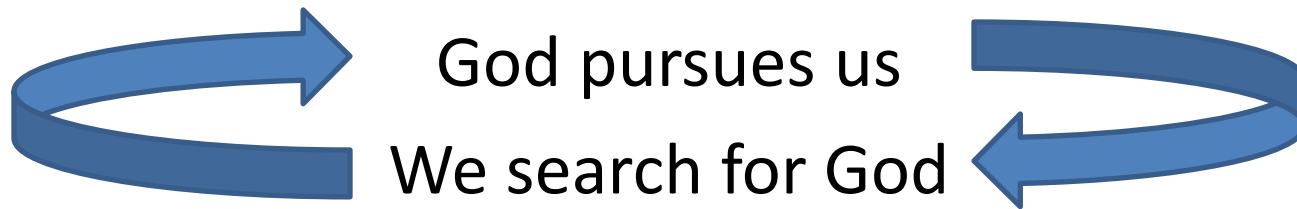


Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) – Collection or summary of essential content of the Catholic faith and morals. Reference book, research tool.

CCC 27

The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and *God never ceases to draw man to himself*. Only in God will he find the *truth and happiness he never stops searching for...*

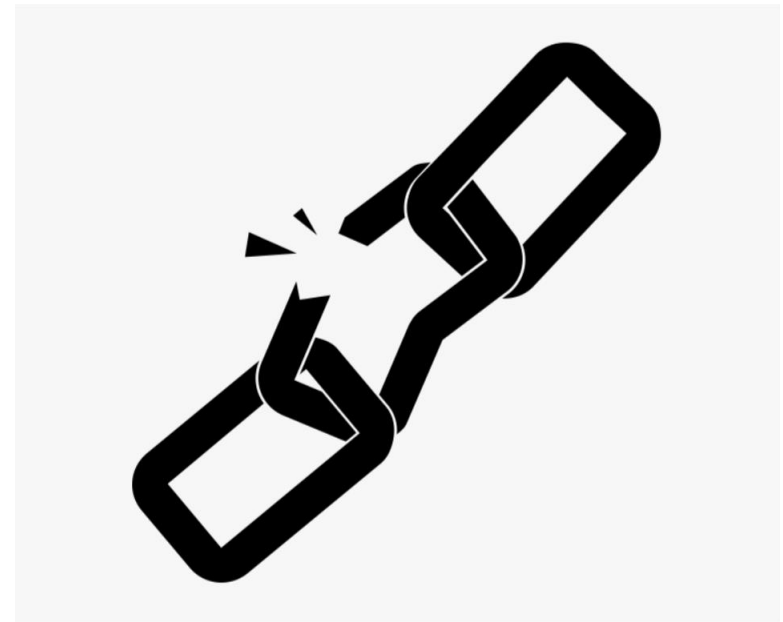


CCC 28

In many ways, throughout history down to the present day, men have given expression to their quest for God in their religious beliefs and behavior: in their prayers, sacrifices, rituals, meditations, and so forth.

Nothing has changed! Isn't that why we are all here?

CCC 29 But this "intimate and vital bond of man to God" can be forgotten, overlooked, or even explicitly rejected by man. Such attitudes can have different causes: revolt against evil in the world; religious ignorance or indifference; the cares and riches of this world; the scandal of bad example on the part of believers; currents of thought hostile to religion; finally, that attitude of sinful man which makes him hide from God out of fear and flee his call.



- ◇We long for "something more" ◇We feel "spiritual"
- ◇What is my purpose?
- ◇What happens when I die? ◇What will make me happy?

Paths to Come to God; *Creation, Reason, Revelation*

- *Creation*

- Psalm 19:2

The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands.

- Complexity/Order/Purposefulness of nature, not random; Fibonacci Sequence

- *Reason*

- Limited because we are limited

- We can believe in God using our mind; Logic, Observation, Science

- Romans 12:2

Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of our mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

- Conscience

- *Revelation*

- God has revealed himself by great deeds, as narrated for us in Scripture

- In Exodus 3:6 & 3:14, God tells Moses who he is
- Jesus Christ is the fullness (final/total) of God's revelation to us; No new public revelation until Jesus returns

Hebrews 1:1-2 In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son...

More About *Revelation*

- Public Revelation vs. Private Revelation
 - Public - God's covenant revealed for all of God's people
 - Jesus, Bible
 - No new public revelation until Jesus returns
 - Private - To individuals
 - Messages given by Mary at Lourdes & Fatima
 - Inspire us to a more profound commitment to God
 - Don't add to or contradict public revelations
- Revelation is transmitted to us through Apostolic Tradition and Scripture
 - Scripture/The Bible – Spend time reading sacred scripture!
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:15 - So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter.
 - 1 Corinthians 11:23 - For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you...
 - Sacred Tradition came before the New Testament was compiled/codified
 - When Jesus left the Earth after the Resurrection, he did not leave a Bible in the hands of his Apostles, instead he gave them the mandate to go out and teach all nations as He had commanded (Mt 28:20)
 - CCC82 As a result the Church, to whom the transmission and interpretation of Revelation is entrusted, "does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence."
 - Capital "T" Tradition; Handed down from Jesus, Doesn't change – Mass, Sacraments
 - Little "t" tradition; Customs, Help us to worship and focus on God, May change, Not required

**God's Revelation calls for a response of faith and conversion from us. How are you responding in your daily life?
Sharing the Gospel, praying, voting..**

FURTHER THOUGHT ON SCRIPTURE & TRADITION (R.Piazza)

PROTESTANTS:

SOLO SCRIPTURE (SCRIPTURE ALONE)

CATHOLIC CHURCH:

SCRIPTURE + SACRED TRADITION = DEPOSIT OF FAITH

Scripture-New Testament: Between 50 & 62 AD

Sacred Tradition: Immediate

FURTHER THOUGHT ON SCRIPTURE & TRADITION (R.Piazza)

-**God's Divine Revelation** for us was completed by Jesus Christ.

-**Sacred Scripture** alone does not capture all of the Divine Revelation

- The Word of God was not all put to writing (John 21:25)

-**Sacred Tradition** is oral transmission of the Word of God by the Apostles and left to successors to be preserved and transmitted to all generations.

FURTHER THOUGHT ON SCRIPTURE & TRADITION (R.Piazza)

What is the difference between Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition?

- Sacred Scripture is the part of Sacred Tradition that was written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Sacred Tradition encompasses the entire Deposit of Faith.
- Examples of Sacred Tradition are the Blessed Trinity and the Divinity of Christ, church liturgies, and the writings of the Church Fathers.

FURTHER THOUGHT ON SCRIPTURE & TRADITION (R.Piazza)

How can teachings of Christ be missed through belief in solo scripture (scripture alone) Examples

-The mass: immediately the Church began what we know as mass (Ltr by Justin Martyr) as commanded by Jesus at the Last Supper (Luke 22:19) & teachings in John 6:

John 6:53: Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you."

-The Sacraments: immediately the Church starting baptizing and the laying on of hands which we know as Confirmation

Heb 6:1-2 1 Therefore, let us leave behind the basic teaching about Christ and advance to maturity, without laying the foundation all over again: repentance from dead works and faith in God, 2 instruction about baptisms and laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. (NAB)

FURTHER THOUGHT ON SCRIPTURE & TRADITION (R.Piazza)

What is the Magisterium?

- It is the teaching office of the Church, protected by the Holy Spirit.
- It gives the Church the power to transmit Christ's Gospels faithfully and correctly.
- It is infallible-The Church can not error in matters of Faith and morals. The Holy Spirit ensures it.
- The Apostles and their successors constitute the Magisterium.

Catholic Church preserves, protects,
clarifies for all generations

