

Roman Catholic Christianity Sources of Wisdom & Authority Knowledge Organiser

The Bible

The Bible is one book, that has many authors. There are many types of writing in the Bible.

Old Testament:

1. **Law:** Decalogue (10 Commandments) given to Moses..
2. **History:** Stories of Jewish history- Abraham, Moses etc.
3. **Prophets:** Jonah & the whale, Daniel & Lions Den teach us about God.

New Testament:

1. **Gospels:** Contain stories & teachings of Jesus.
2. **Letters:** St Paul wrote these teaching Christians how to live as God wanted.
3. **Revelation:** A book describing the end of the world.

Interpretation of the Bible

1. **Inspired Word of God: Catholic** view- God inspires humans, they wrote the Bible.
2. **Literal Word of God: Creationist** view, believe the Bible word for word.
3. **Liberal View: Other Christians** view, allows a closeness to God and contains spiritual not literal truths.

The Magisterium

The Magisterium are the leaders of the RC Church.

1. **Pope** is the Head of the Church.
2. **Cardinal** is a bishop chosen by the Pope.
3. **Archbishop:** Head of an arch diocese.
4. **Bishop:** Head of a diocese.
5. **Priest:** is in charge of a Parish.

The Magisterium is a living, teaching office of the Church today.

This means that they interpret the Bible to cover issues that didn't exist in the time of Jesus- e.g.- contraception, same sex marriage.

SOWA: "Interpreting the Word of God... trusted to the Magisterium." (CCC)

Second Vatican Council

This was a large gathering held at the Vatican to discuss teaching & belief in the modern world.

Some changes made during the meeting:

1. Jews no longer blamed for the death of Jesus.
2. Mass is said in the local language.
3. Lay people can take part in Mass.

4 Documents produced.

1. **Lumen Gentium:** Catholic & Protestant relationships.
2. **Sacrosanctum Concilium:** Changed the Mass.
3. **Dei Verbum:** Teachings from the Bible.
4. **Gaudium Et Spes:** Human relationships in society.

Church as the Body of Christ

This links to the teaching that we all have a role to play within the Christian community.

1. **Laiety:** The people that attend Mass, follow the Sacraments etc.
2. **Clergy:** The people that lead the worship- Magisterium Priest etc.
3. **Religious:** Monks & Nuns who pray for the needs of the world.

SOWA: "The body is one & has many members" (Corinthians)

Mary as a Model of the Church

Mary is important to Catholics as she followed God & Jesus throughout her life.

1. **Joined with Jesus:** Mary is the immaculate Conception & Mother of God. **SOWA; Mary's role...inseperable from Christ." (CCC)**
2. **Discipleship:** She does as she is asked without question. Follows God & Jesus. **SOWA: Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. (Luke)**
3. **Faith & Charity:** Mary accepted carrying Jesus and obeys God. She is with her son Jesus at the foot of the cross & never doubts her faith. **SOWA: "Mary is the model of faith & charity. (CCC)**

Four Marks of the Church

These are a declaration of the Catholic faith.

1. **One:** There is only one Church, one Body in Christ. **Prevents division with other Christians.**
2. **Holy:** The Church itself is holy as it links to Jesus. **Allows participation in 7 Sacraments.**
3. **Catholic:** Meaning it is spread throughout the world. **Everyone who shares in it shares the same beliefs.**
4. **Apostolic:** Follows the teachings of the disciples. **Allows for the Magisterium to interpret scripture.**

Personal & Ethical Decision Making

Jesus is a role model for Christians & they follow his teachings.

1. **Love Others:** Take care of those in need. **SOWA: " your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew)**
2. **Forgiveness:** This is how we gain salvation, we must forgive others in order to be forgiven. **SOWA: "Jesus forgives those who crucified him." (Luke)**
3. **Servanthood:** Jesus was the Servant King- sent to help others. **SOWA: "Last Supper told us to love one another." (John)**
4. **Social Justice:** We need to help those in need. **SOWA: Parable of the Sheep & Goats. (Matthew)**