

Some Christian fundamentalists argue that Catholics are not biblical Christians.

- The Catholic Faith is a living faith that traces its history back to the witnessing of the early apostles and the communities they formed.
- Catholics recognise the Bible to be the authentic written expression of the faith of the early Church.
- The Holy Spirit guides the Catholic Church so that it interprets the biblical revelation without error.
- The Church in her teaching will guide us in our understanding of the true meaning of Scripture.
- We are biblical Christians in the sense that we reverence Scripture as being the inspired Word of God but we don't idolise it.
- Christianity aims to lead us to a deeper knowledge and love of the person of Jesus Christ not being able to quote the bible, chapter and verse in a robotic manner.
- We, as Catholics see the Bible and the Church as being two sides of the one coin – working in unison. The Bible is a child of the Catholic Church. St Augustine says: *"The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old is unveiled in the New"*.
- It was the Catholic Church that decided which books of the bible were inspired and which were not (the canon of Scripture).
- This 'canon' was decided by the Pope at the end of the fourth century. (Council of Carthage 393 AD)
- It was the Catholic Church that decided, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to commit the Word of God to writing and faithfully interpret it.
- While on Earth Jesus never asked anyone to put together a written record of His life and teaching. He left that to the Church.
- Some people given the impression that the Bible was invented at the Reformation. If the Catholic Church had died out in the second century there would have been no New

Testament at all and the Old Testament may not have survived either.

- With the invention of the printing Press in the 15th century the Bible readership was boosted but the Church cautioned against interpreting it in an arbitrary fashion which could lead to confusion. To a certain extent that is what happened with the proliferation of protestant sects. Today there are more than 30,000 Protestant sects - all with their own take on the Bible. You get as many interpretations of the bible as there are preachers and therein lies the danger. People became transfixed by Hitler who saw him as their 'messiah' but it all ended in destruction. Do we ever learn?
- Without the oversight of the Church and its Magisterium, guided by the Holy Spirit and headed by the Successor of St Peter, the Bible can so easily be misinterpreted, quoted out of context and even falsified.
- The Catholic Church, at the time of the Reformation, was also acutely conscious that translations from the original Greek and Latin could easily deviate from what the original

authors intended. Calvin's translation of the Bible, (Geneva Bible) for instance, was layered with a heavy anti-Catholic bias, so certain catholic words in the original scriptures were changed to suit his own 'reformist' agenda.

- The Catholic Church has never taught anything which is contrary to scripture. Some teachings are not immediately apparent but all of its teachings are implicit in the words of scripture.
- There are many disputed moral questions which the Bible says nothing explicitly about. For instance the bible says absolutely nothing about *in vitro* fertilization, artificial contraception, surrogate motherhood, racial discrimination, the death sentence etc.
- That is why we need the Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to guide and enlighten our consciences in vital areas of morality such as the above without which we end up in a moral quagmire.