

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

How Is The Gospel Communicated?

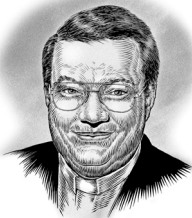
Know This...

Jesus never told His Apostles to write down His teaching; but He did send them out to preach it. Their preaching brought Apostolic Tradition to the world. The first books of the New Testament weren't written until 20 to 30 years after Jesus' ascension. For nearly 2000 years, the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been communicated through Apostolic Tradition: the passing on of our Lord's teaching through the oral and written word. Both Holy Tradition and Sacred Scripture are the infallible Word of God.



John: The Apostles received the Gospel from the lips of Christ, from observing His way of life, from assisting in His works, and from the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

James: The Apostles preached the Gospel so people might hear and accept the Word of God, repent of their sins, and be saved.



John: What the Apostles received from Jesus they passed on to their successors and disciples, who likewise passed it on.

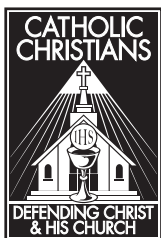
James: This infallible means of communication, guided by the Holy Spirit, will continue to the end of time.

John: Many Christians say they reject tradition because Jesus did. Jesus only rejected human traditions that distract us from His truth. Apostolic Tradition is of divine origin not human origin.

James: Christianity is not opposed to human traditions, scholarship, or science, unless they deny or reject the Word of God.

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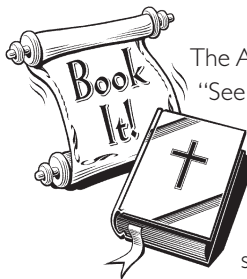
Jesus ordered the Apostles to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." ^{Mk 16:15} Every Christian should reverence the oral Word of God as they do the written Word of God. Jesus revealed that the Holy Spirit is the author and guardian of both when He told the Apostles, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—He will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you." ^{Jn 14:16,26}

"The Apostles transmitted all they received from Christ and learned from the Holy Spirit to their successors, the bishops, and through them to all generations until the end of the world." ^{Comp. CCC 12} "Let us note that the very tradition, teaching, and faith of the Catholic Church from the beginning, which the Lord gave, was preached by the Apostles, and was preserved by the Fathers. On this was the Church founded; and if anyone departs from this, he neither is nor any longer ought to be called a Christian." ^{St. Athanasius, 359 A.D.}



PAPA SAYS

The Apostle Peter spoke to the preaching of Apostolic Tradition. "You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and abiding Word of God, for: 'All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the field; the grass withers, and the flower wilts; but the Word of the Lord remains forever.' This is the word that has been proclaimed to you." ^{1 Pet 1:23-25}



The Apostle Paul rejected harmful human traditions. "See to it that no one captivates you with an empty, seductive philosophy according to human traditions, according to elemental powers of the world and not according to Christ." ^{Col 2:8} Paul accepted Apostolic Tradition. "Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions we taught you, whether by word of mouth or by letter." ^{2Thes 2:15} "We instruct you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to shun any brother who conducts himself in a disorderly way and not according to the tradition they received from us." ^{2Thes 3:6} "I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold fast to the traditions, just as I handed them on to you." ^{1 Cor 11:2}

Lord Jesus, I have come to know and accept You through Apostolic Tradition. I believe everything Your Apostolic Church proclaims and teaches for it is truly Your infallible word. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide me to a deeper understanding of Your Gospel, give me the discipline to live it, and set me ablaze with the desire to spread it. I ask this through your Most Holy Name. Amen.

