



Apologetics without Apology

"Always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us." 1 Peter 3:15

In this Year of Faith, we are presenting short and simple answers to questions that people often have about the Catholic Faith. Each month we will feature two different questions and the answers to them.

Why does the Protestant Bible have seven fewer books than the Catholic Bible?

God revealed Himself to man by inspiring writers to inscribe His words of divine truth. These inspired books make up the Canon, or the official list, of the Bible.

The Catholic Old Testament, also called the Septuagint, is based on the Greek canon. The Protestant OT canon (omitting Wisdom, Sirach, Judith, Baruch, Tobit and 1 and 2 Maccabees as well as portions of Daniel and Ester) is based on the Hebrew canon.

The Septuagint was the translation used by Jesus and the New Testament writers. All Christians used the Septuagint until 1529 when Martin Luther changed to the 39-book canon used by the rabbinic Judaism.

Which Canon would YOU rather use - the Old Testament proclaimed by

Jesus and the early Church or the one used by later Jews who rejected Christ?

How did we get the books of the Bible?

The official Canon of the Bible was under much debate in the early years of the Church. Church Fathers, such as St. Irenaeus and Eusebius, had developed lists of inspired books, and the Council of Hippo in 393 AD approved the present canon of 73 books. In 405 AD, Pope St. Innocent I approved the same OT and NT canons and closed the canon of the Bible.

Thus, the faith in the authority of the Catholic Church to be infallibly guided by the Holy Spirit gives all Christians the assurance to trust in the words of the Bible. When Protestants rely and quote from the Bible, in reality they are also confirming the teaching authority of the Catholic Church.



The Mission of Una Fides is to build the Body of Christ by encouraging Catholic men and women to enrich, fortify, and embrace their faith through prayer, study, and fellowship.

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