

Which Church is Biblical?

Topic	The Bible	Roman Catholic Church	Protestant Churches
LINE OF PETER	Jesus gave preeminence to Peter over the other Apostles: "I will give thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matt. 16:19). "Strengthen thy brethren" (LK 22:32), "Feed My Lambs; feed My sheep" (John 21:15-17).	The Catholic Church gives the primacy of honor and jurisdiction to Peter and to his successors in an unbroken line all the way to our present pontiff Pope John Paul II, the 264th in the line of successors.	Other Christian denominations deny Peter's supremacy over the other Apostles even though Christ's words are documented in the New Testament. Because of this denial, it stands to reason they will not accept the Popes.
INFALLIBILITY	The Apostolic Church claimed to be infallible in her teachings as documented in 1 Thessalonians 2:13: "When you heard and received from us the word of God, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but, as it truly is, the word of God."	The Church alone, of all Christian denominations, claims to exercise the prerogative of infallibility in her teaching. For the pontiffs, in the succession of the line of Peter, are infallible in matters of faith & morals. We can believe with implicit confidence in their authority.	Protestant churches repudiate the claim of infallibility, denying that such a gift is possessed by any teachers. The ministers advance opinions as embodying their private interpretation of the Bible. Their hearers are expected to draw their own conclusions from the Bible.
FASTING	Jesus enjoined and prescribed rules for fasting: "When thou dost fast, anoint thy head and wash thy face, so that thou mayest not be seen by men to fast" (MT 16:19). The Apostles fasted before engaging in sacred functions (Acts 14:22).	The Catholic Church prescribes fasting to the faithful at stated seasons, particularly during the Season of Lent. In addition, Religious Orders emphasize the need for penance and fasting in order to better commit their lives to God in service to him.	Protestants have no law prescribing fasts, though some may fast from private devotion. They even try to ridicule fasting. Neither candidates for ordination nor the ministers who ordain them, are ever required to fast on such occasions.
CONFIRMATION	St. Peter and St. John confirmed the newly baptized in Samaria. "They laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit". This is recorded in Acts 8:17.	Every Catholic Bishop, as a successor of the Apostles, likewise imposes hands on baptized persons in the Sacrament of Confirmation, by which they receive the Holy Spirit.	No denomination performs the ceremony of imposing hands as a Sacrament for they do not have the sacramental gifts. There are some who lay hands but not as a Sacrament.
THE EUCHARIST	Jesus and His Apostles taught that the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ: "Take and eat; this is My body... All of you drink of this, for this is My blood" (MT 26:28). "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not the sharing of the blood of Christ? And the bread that we break, is it not the partaking of the body of the Lord?" (1 Cor 7:10-11).	The Catholic Church teaches, with our Lord and His Apostles, that the Eucharist is truly and indeed the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread & wine. Catholics believe in Transubstantiation. By His death He gained for us the merit, and through the Mass, applies to us that merit and reward of His Bloody Death through the unbloody oblation of the Mass.	The Protestant churches condemn the doctrine of the Real Presence as idolatrous and say that, in partaking of the communion, we receive only a memorial of Christ. They totally deny Transubstantiation, considering it merely a symbolic act. They fail to realize the Apostles were carrying out what Jesus requested.
RECONCILIATION	The Apostles were empowered by Jesus to forgive sins: "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them" (John 20:23). "God," says St. Paul in 1 Cor 7:10-11, "hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation."	The Bishops and Priests of the Catholic Church, as the inheritors of Apostolic prerogatives, profess to exercise the ministry of reconciliation, and to forgive sins in the name of Jesus Christ.	Protestants affirm on the contrary, that God delegates to no man the power of pardoning sin. For a group so bent on holding the Bible up as the final authority, they fail to truly realize what Scripture says and means.
ANOINTING THE SICK	Regarding the sick, St. James said in James 5:14: "Is any one among you sick? Let him bring in the presbyters of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of Our Lord."	One of the most ordinary duties of a Catholic Priest is to anoint the sick in the Sacrament of the Sick, formerly called Extreme Unction. If someone is sick the Priest is called in to anoint him with oil in Jesus' name.	No such Sacrament as that of anointing the sick is practiced by any Protestant denomination. There are some Pentecostal groups who anoint but it does not have sacramental gifts.
MATRIMONY	Jesus said: "Whoever puts away his wife and marries another, commits adultery against her; and if the wife puts away her husband, and marries another, she commits adultery" (Mark 10:11-12). St. Paul reiterates Our Lord's words in 1 Cor 7:10.	Literally following the Apostle's injunction, the Catholic Church forbids the husband and wife to separate from one another unless proof can be amply provided that they were never married in the eyes of the Church. This is called Annulment, a tough process to deter easy divorce. In addition, if a couple separates, neither of them can marry again until an annulment is granted.	The Protestant churches, as is well known, have so relaxed this law of the Gospel as to allow divorced persons to remarry, and many are lured to these churches because of this liberal thinking where they can rationalize what they are doing is alright and continue to live in sin without paying the consequences on earth. In fact, some of the so-called new age churches encourage divorce.
CHASTITY/PRIESTHOOD	Our Lord recommended not only by word but by His example, to souls aiming at perfection, the state of perpetual chastity. St. Paul also exhorted the Corinthians by counsel and his own example to the same virtue: "He who gives his body in marriage does well, and he who does not give does better" (1 Cor 7:38).	Like Our Savior, the Catholic clergy bind themselves to a life of perpetual chastity, committing to being "Brides of Christ" so they are better able to minister to the needs of the flock. Religious communities for men and women voluntarily consecrate their chastity to God through the solemn vow of Chastity, something not taken lightly.	All ministers of other denominations are permitted to marry. In fact, even divorced ministers are accepted. Far from inculcating the Apostolic counsel of celibacy to any of their flock, they more than insinuate that the virtue of perpetual chastity, though recommended by St. Paul is impracticable and therefore dismissed.