

Symbolon Summary for Session 2- Divine Revelation

Just as a bride reveals her face to her husband for the first time on their wedding day, with the symbolic lifting of her veil, God seeks us out so that He can make Himself known (unveiled/revealed) to us for the sake of entering into a deep personal relationship with us and all of humanity. This unveiling is known as Divine Revelation. Divine Revelation is how God communicates Himself to us so that we can know Him personally and what His plan is for our lives. Jesus, the Son of God, reveals God's love to us as a walking/talking God. He is the culmination of God's Divine Revelation. The Holy Spirit guards the truth handed down to the apostles, so that now, even more than two thousand years later we can still come to know God.

What God reveals to us is not up for grabs. However, one may wonder how these revelations have been handed down through the generations? The fullness of God's revelation is known as the Deposit of Faith. The Deposit of Faith is comprised of Sacred Scripture (writings/letters) and Sacred Tradition (oral forms of transmission). The Magisterium, the official teaching authority of the Church, preserves the unity of faith and the unity of the Church through authentic interpretation of both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Each of these three aspects (Scripture/Tradition/Magisterium) are vitally important to the support and structure of the others. One cannot rely on Scripture alone (also known as *sola scriptura*) as the sole source of Divine Revelation. We need to embrace both Scripture and Tradition, both oral and written teachings, as riches that help us encounter the mysteries of Christ. These teachings were handed down and entrusted to the Church. So, we as Catholics have the whole Word of God as the sole rule of faith. The apostles handed down to their successors and so on (the Bishops who make up the Magisterium) orally, through their examples, and in writings/letters what was revealed to them by Jesus and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Sacred Tradition is about a way of life, a way of life of a family, and how to live that life well. Over the course of three years, Jesus communicated to His apostles through His actions and examples and not mere words alone, how to live as the family/children of God. Jesus did this most beautifully at the Last Supper. God has shown us the way to live life. Will you accept God's Revelation as the standard of truth for your life? Will you accept the authority God gave to His Church to interpret it? Jesus wants to meet you in His Church. Will you welcome Him into your life, by welcoming His Church?