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Sola Scriptura

Sola Scriptura is the teaching that the [Scriptures \(/dictionary-scripture\)](#) contain all that is necessary for [salvation \(/dictionary-salvation\)](#) and proper living before [God \(/dictionary-god\)](#). Sola Scriptura means that the Scriptures--the Old and New Testaments (excluding the Catholic apocrypha)--are the final authority in all that they address ([1 Cor. 4:6 \(http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Cor.%204.6\)](#)) and that tradition, even so-called [Sacred Tradition, \(/dictionary-sacred-tradition\)](#) is judged by Scriptures. Sola Scriptura does not negate past church councils or traditions. Those who hold to Sola Scriptura are free to consider past councils, traditions, commentaries, and the opinions of others. But, the final authority is the Scripture alone because the Scripture alone is what is inspired by God ([2 Timothy 3:16 \(http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/2%20Tim%203.16\)](#)) and not past church councils, tradition, commentaries, and opinions. Scripture is above them all.

[1 Timothy 3:14-15 \(http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Tim%203.14-15\)](#), "I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; 15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth."

Paul the apostle says that he is writing to the church so that the church would know how to conduct itself. Paul's writings, which are Scripture, are above the church because Paul tells the church to behave according to what he writes. Therefore, we can see that the church--along with its tradition and councils--is subject to the Word of God.

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