

Why I think Catholicism is awesome!  
Eben Emerson

If you want to make God laugh tell Him your plans.

- We seldom do what God wants without later being forced into it.

**Jonah.**

**Jesus** in the **garden** (Matthew 26:39).

- Everything I didn't want to do/become I did/became.
- This journey has filled me with a conviction that the Catholic Church is awesome.

Beginning with the start in mind.

- It's hard to see the **end** so we usually fight the **beginning**.
- Jonah and Jesus both had a hard row to hoe.
- I'm going to share why I became a Catholic and the reasons I didn't want to.

The four foundations.

- **History**. Most history is Chronological.
- **Scripture**. The BIBLE that's the book that converted me.
- **Theology and philosophy**. I'm not a pancake, or maybe I am. Just don't eat me.
- **Apologetics**. The garage workshop.

History. Most history is chronological!

- My understanding of Church History was not historical.
- Historical reasons why Catholicism is awesome.

First: the history of **Christendom**.

33AD birth of Church. Jerusalem Council AD 48. Nicaea AD 325. Schism AD 1054.

Reformation begins 1517 (95 thesis). 2014 47k churches.

Everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Judges 18 and "itching ears."

2Timothy 4:3

Second: the development of the canon of **Scripture**.

News flash! The Bible did not fall out of the sky!!!

96AD Last writing. 70AD St. Justin identifies memoirs as being used in Mass. (CCC 1332ff) 350. St. Cyril makes list of acceptable books. 367 St. Athanasius approves 27 book New Testament. 397 and 419, under Augustine, NT accepted at Carthage. 380-405 "People" translation the vulgate completed by St. Jerome. 411 Ephesus approves full canon. (27 NT 46 OT.) Ratified in 1546 at Trent.

Scripture. The BIBLE that's the book that converted me. Three texts to consider.

- **Matthew 16:16-20.**

The Church that Jesus established would be the church that would ALWAYS be around.

Either that is the Catholic Church or Jesus is a liar.

- **John 6.**

Those who have life in them eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus.

If we want His life we have to find it His way.

- **1 Timothy 3:15.**

The Pillar and Foundation of the truth would be the church.

It couldn't have been the Bible and it's not the individual.

Theology and philosophy. I'm not a pancake. Maybe I am...

- Didn't even know that was demonic philosophy.
- From Socrates to Plato to Augustine to Aquinas to a **pancake** on my plate. There is **order** in the universe.

There is order in the **human** "being."

I know my pancake and my dog, neither know me. I can comprehend a higher power that is like me. This "**prime mover**" of my "type" leads me to a "graduated" understanding that something bigger is there.

If there is a God of **order**; knowing God must come through an **ordered means**.  
Apologetics. The garage workshop.

- Big picture...lots of questions.
- **Apologetics** answers the questions we can't always answer on our feet.
- A few recommendations:

Read **Scripture**.

Read the **CCC**.

Hahn, Currie, Staples, call a person who may know.

Never ask **unfaithful** Catholics.

Wrap it up preacher!

- History: The development of scripture and Christendom **prove** the **validity** of Catholicism.
- Scripture: I want to be **where Jesus** says He is.
- Philosophy and theology: An **ordered universe** leads the **ordered human** to come to know God through an **ordered means**. That means is Catholicism.
- Apologetics: figure it out!
- Being Catholic is awesome!!

Not just guessing.

Concrete is the best place to fall.

Ending with the End in mind.

- I, like some of you, did not want to be Catholic. Now we have the Eucharist and the identifiable Church of Christ.
- Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh, it led to their conversion.
- The cross brought life.
- So what are going to do?

Availability and obedience leads to LIFE.

What are you going to do? Stay marginally involved, stay away. Come on in. The encounter is wonderful!