

# Catholic vs. Protestant

A Visual Guide to the 10 Major Differences  
(and the Core Similarities)



A united church  
guided by Rome.

1517: Martin Luther's  
95 Theses. He seeks  
reform, not a new  
religion.

1517



Catholic



The Protestant  
Reformation.  
The split results  
in two sides  
with directly  
contradictory  
teachings.

Protestant



# The 4 Theological Battlegrounds



## Source of Truth

Bible, Tradition,  
and the Pope.



## Mechanics of Salvation

Faith, Works, and  
Purgatory.



## The Mediators

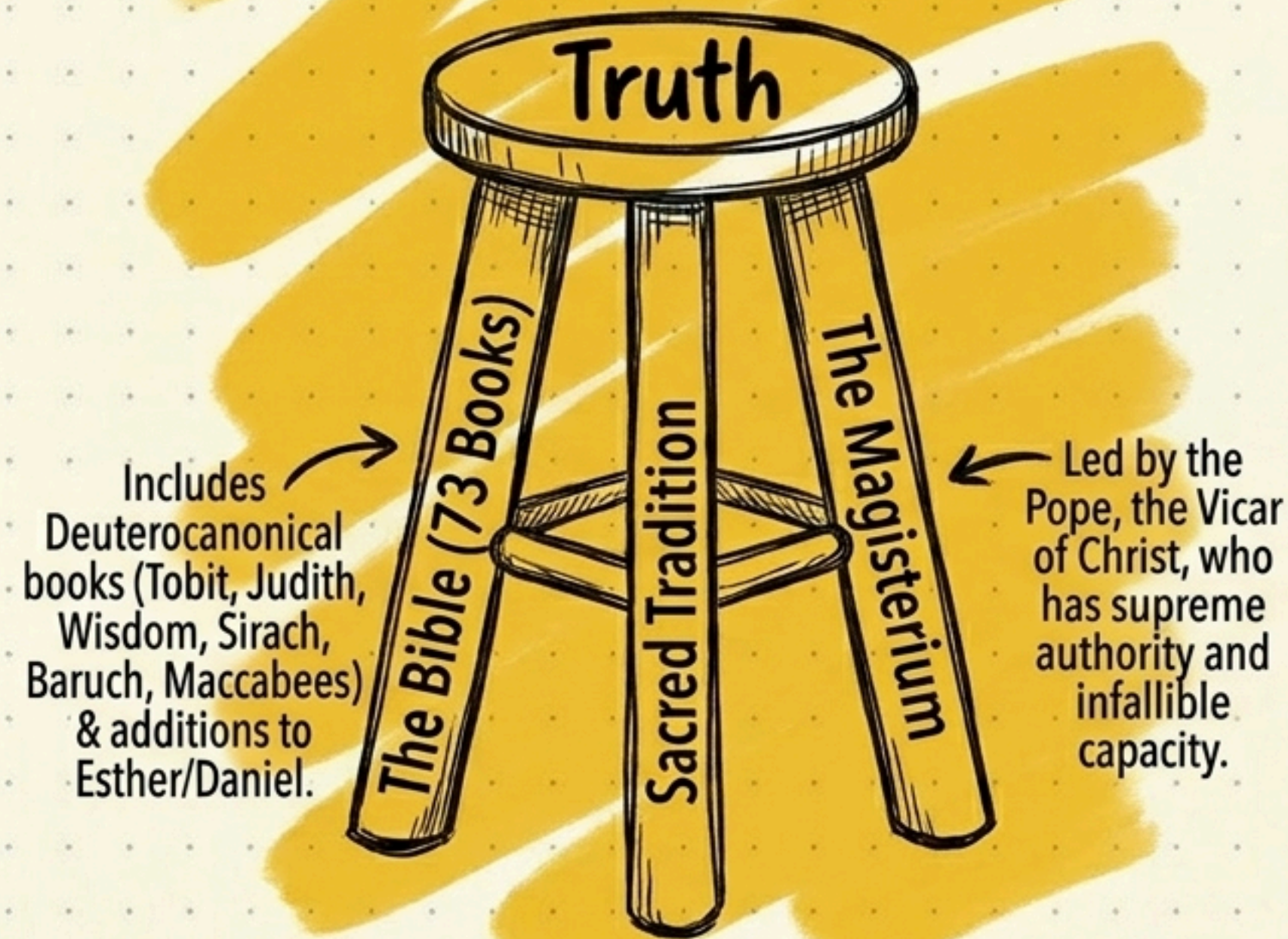
Mary, The Saints,  
and Confession.



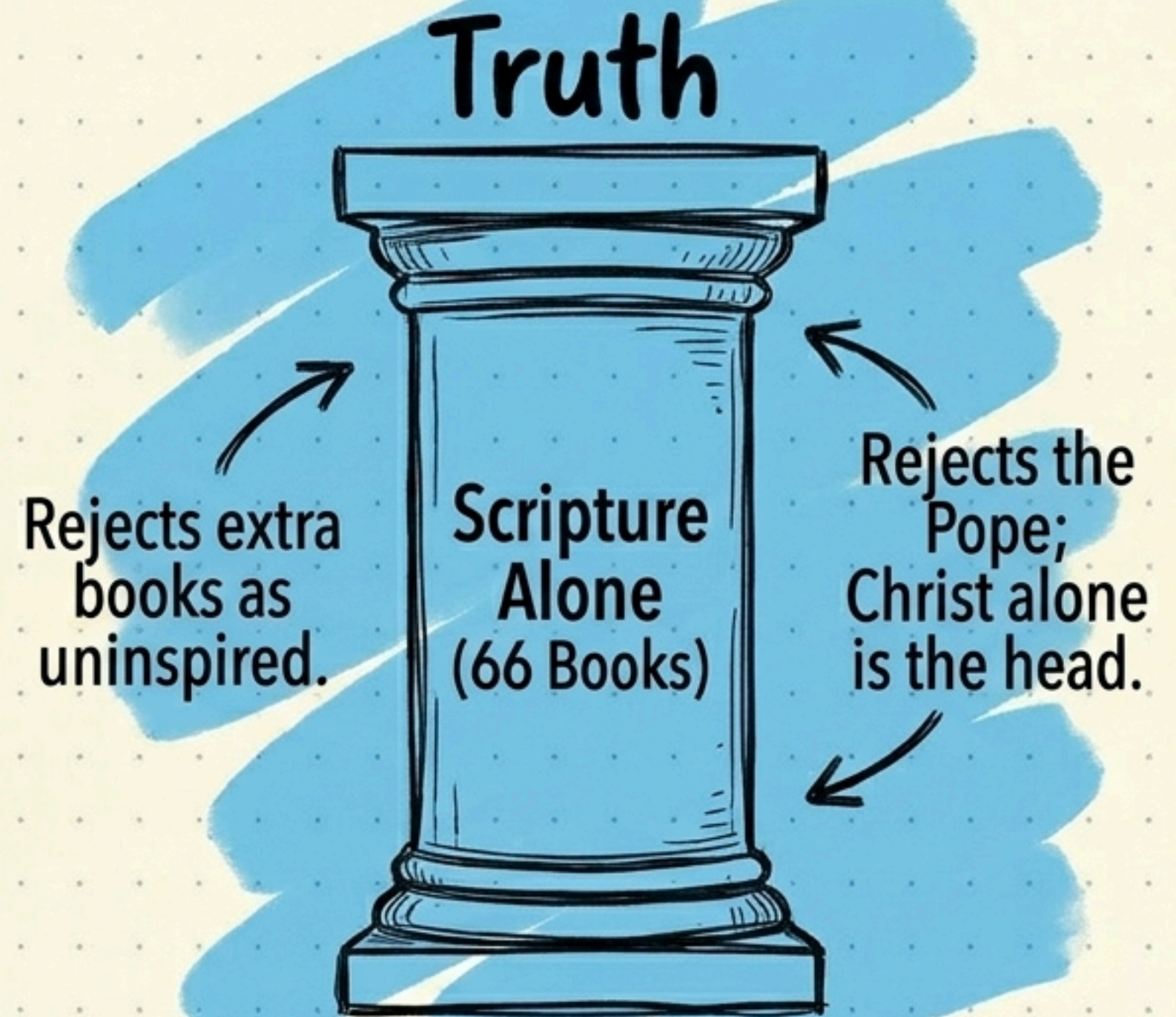
## Worship & Practice

The Mass, Sacraments,  
and the Crucifix.

By grouping the 10 major differences into these 4 themes,  
the logic behind the divide becomes clear.



**Catholic view: The single-source model creates chaos and thousands of denominations.**



**Protestant view: The multi-source model adds to God's word.**

Both agree salvation is only possible because of Jesus Christ.

Grace + Faith + Works = Salvation

Works includes living faithfully, receiving sacraments, and persevering to the end.



Purgatory.



A state of purification after death for those in God's grace not fully cleansed of sin.

Faith Alone = Salvation → Good Works (Results in)

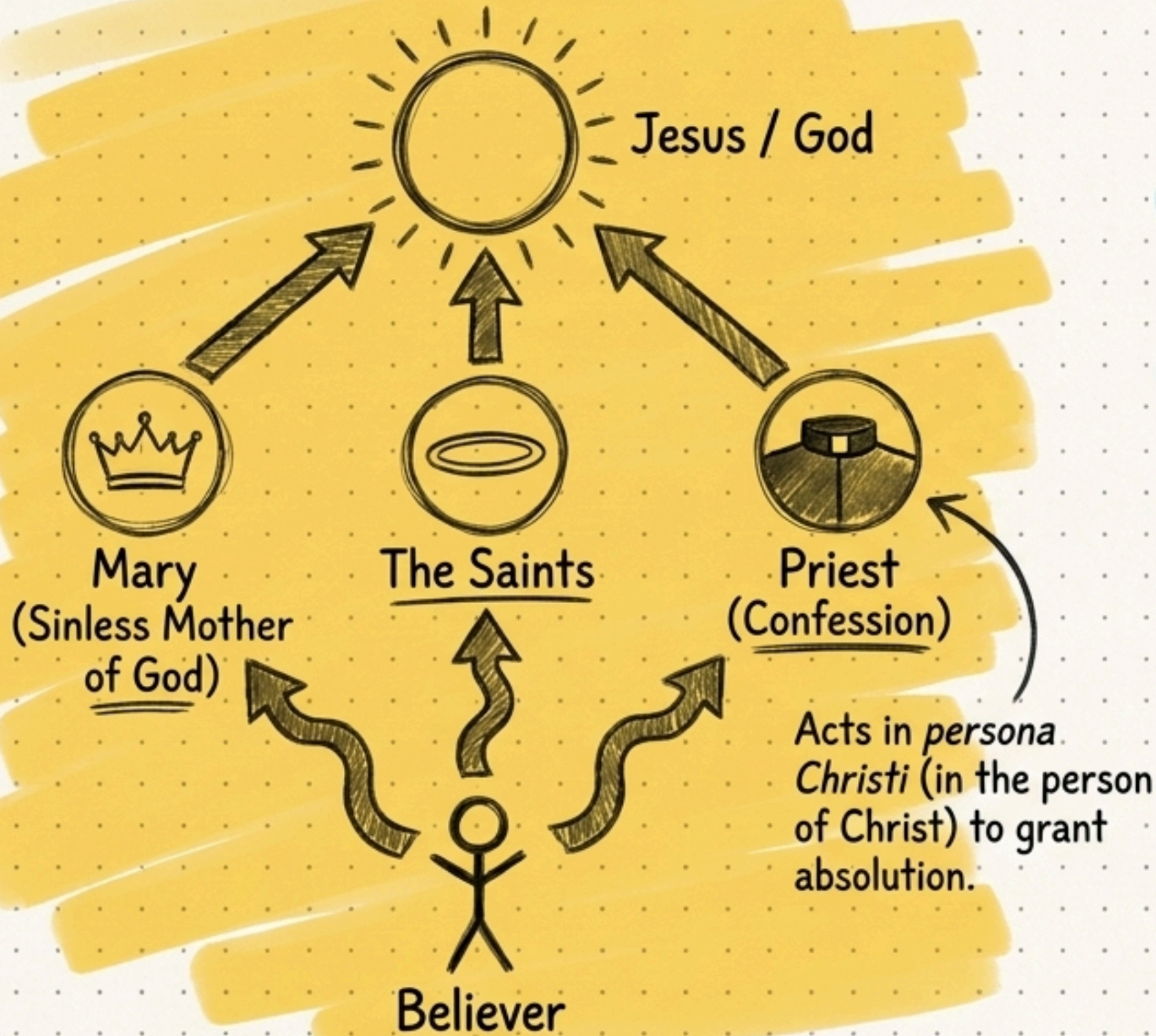
Good works are a fruit of genuine faith, not a requirement to earn heaven.



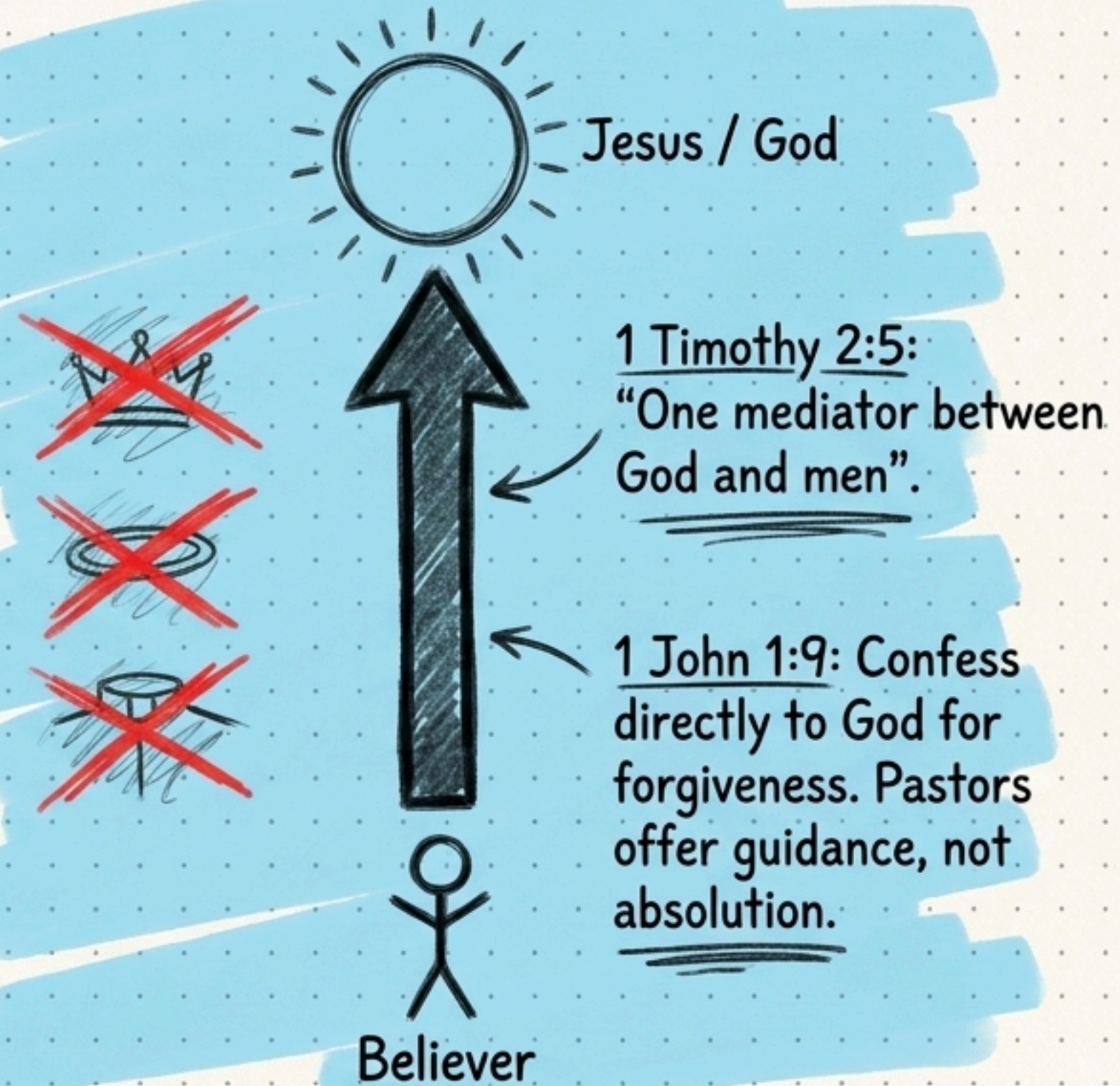
No Purgatory. Directly to Heaven or Hell based on faith in Christ.

# Mediation: The Path to God

## Catholic View: Multiple Mediators/Intercessors



## Protestant View: One Mediator, Direct Access





Liturgical and structured.  
Focuses on the Eucharist.

The bread and wine literally become Christ's body and blood. The sacrifice of the cross is made present again.  
(7 Total Sacraments).



Varies from traditional hymns to contemporary bands. Focuses on the sermon and congregational singing.

The Lord's Supper is a remembrance of a once-for-all sacrifice. The cross is empty because He is risen.  
(2 Sacraments: Baptism & Communion)

Topic	Catholic Church	Protestantism
Bible Length	73 Books	66 Books
Sacraments	7 Recognized	2 Recognized (Baptism & Communion)
The Pope	Supreme Head & Vicar of Christ	<del>✗</del> Rejected (Christ is the only head)
Purgatory	Exists ✓	Does not exist
Confession	To a Priest for absolution	Directly to God

Catholic Focus

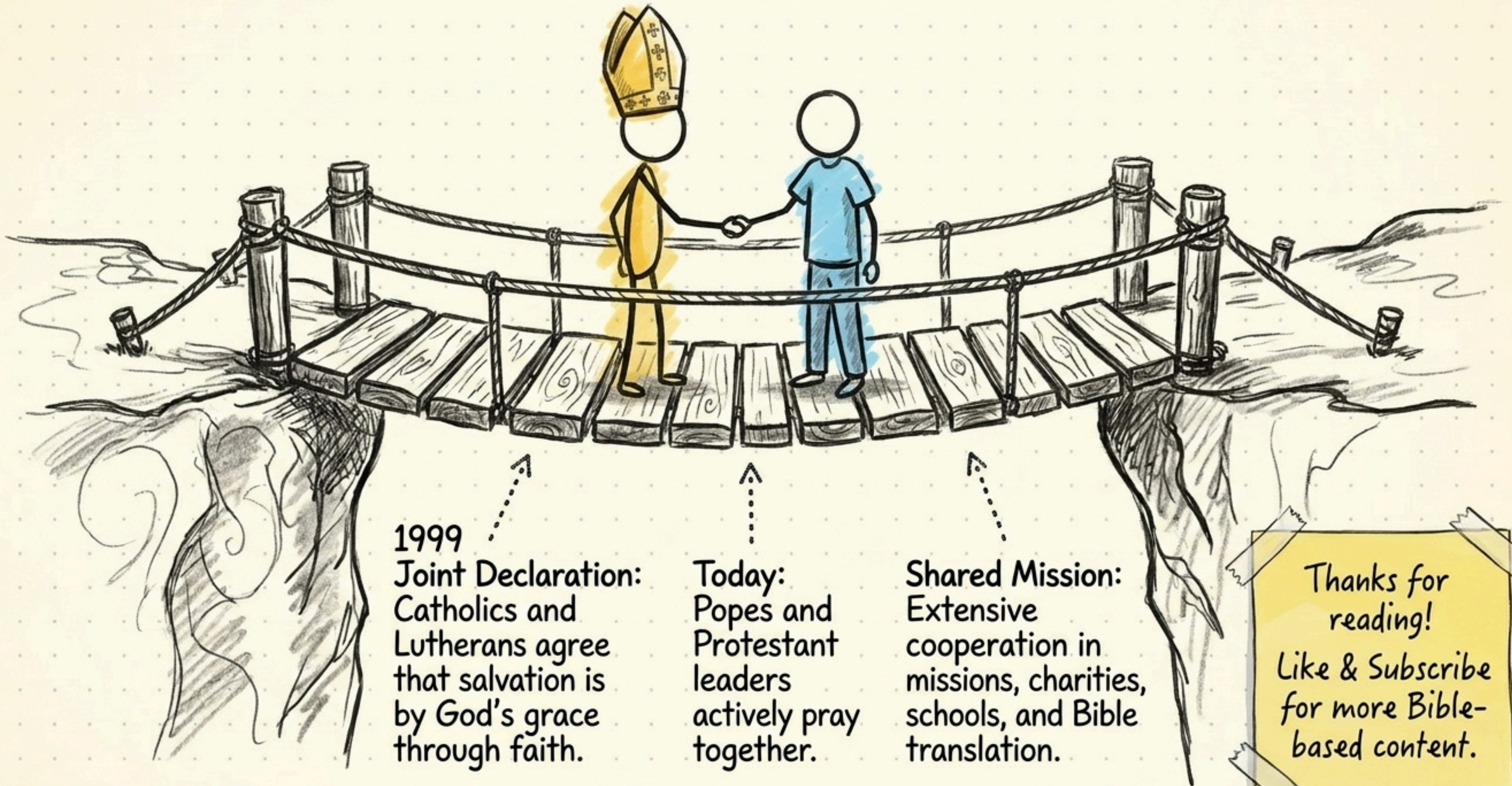
Tradition,  
Pope,  
7 Sacraments,  
Mary

- The Trinity
- Jesus as Lord & Savior
- ✓ Read the Bible
- ✓ Baptism & Communion
- ✓ Serve the poor/  
Pray & Sing

Protestant Focus

Scripture  
Alone,  
Faith Alone,  
Empty Cross

They may argue about authority, sacraments, and Mary, but they agree on the center: Jesus Christ.



1999  
Joint Declaration:  
Catholics and  
Lutherans agree  
that salvation is  
by God's grace  
through faith.

Today:  
Popes and  
Protestant  
leaders  
actively pray  
together.

Shared Mission:  
Extensive  
cooperation in  
missions, charities,  
schools, and Bible  
translation.

Thanks for  
reading!  
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