

Today's readings contain two very important passages from Scripture, both of which could be a subject for a doctrinal sermon, but since it's Wednesday, I'll spare you the details.

In the Letter to Timothy, Saint Paul refers to "*the Church of the living God*" as two things: (1) "*the household of God*" and (2) "*the pillar and foundation of truth*".

In essence, our membership in the Church is not a solo affair. While in our contemporary society, there is a push for radical individuality; what is often called "me and Jesus" doesn't cut it.

If we are members of the household of God, we cannot operate as if we are the center of the universe. A household, or a family, consists of members who interact and support each other ... not hermits who hide from other human beings.

And secondly, we are often sold a lie which is termed "*sola Scriptura*" which means "*only Scriptures*" or "*only the Bible*". Too often, even misguided Catholics will try to win an argument by saying "*well, that's not in the Bible*".

I often want to point out that there are a lot of things that aren't in the Bible: iPods, computers, televisions, SUVs, baseball caps, running shoes, shopping malls, dollar bills, and zippers ... to name a few. But I doubt that most individuals who throw out a one-liner to shut down a losing argument will jump at the chance to part with all of these things ... just to prove their point.

And it all comes down to what is often called "*the Spirit of the Age*".

Jesus says it quite well with the little riddle:

*We played the flute for you, but you did not dance.*

*We sang a dirge, but you did not weep.*

In other words, our life in Christ is not a game we play ... we do not get to pick and choose what Traditions of Scriptures suit us ... which ones make us happy ... which ones make us sad ... but rather are called to conform ourselves to Christ Jesus through the 2,000 year history of the Church.

As Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman said, "*To be deep in history is to cease to be Protestant.*" Or in other words, the more one knows history, the harder it is to remain separated from the Church.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ ... let us pray for an openness to the Spirit of God ... the Holy Spirit ... to more deeply inform us in our knowledge and attitudes toward our Faith. And through the graces of this Sacrament, let us cast aside the Spirit of the Age ... however it may come to us ... and rather embrace our Faith as it has come to us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.