

'Fallibilism' (pub. 08.01.13-17:30). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-fallibilism-continuity-and-evolution-r-2>.

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**Term:** Fallibilism

**Quote:** To return to our friends the Conservatives; these ladies and gentlemen will tell me this doctrine of fallibilism can never be admitted because the consequences from it would undermine Religion. I can only say I am very sorry. The doctrine is true; - without claiming absolute certainty for it, it is substantially unassailable. And if its consequences are antagonistic to religion, so much the worse for religion. At the same time, I do not believe they are so antagonistic. The dogmas of a church may be infallible - infallible in the sense in which it is infallibly true that it is wrong to murder and steal - practically and substantially infallible. But what use a church could make of a mathematical infallibility, I fail to see.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1893 [c.]). *Fallibilism, Continuity, and Evolution [R]*. MS [R] 955.

**References:** CP 1.151

**Date of** 1893 [c.]

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-fallibilism-continuity-and-evolution-r-2>