

# Roman Catholicism (II)

# I. 'Pope' Claim Of Catholicism

‘The Catholic Church teaches, also, that our Lord conferred on St. Peter the first place of honor and jurisdiction in the government of His whole Church, and that the same spiritual supremacy has always resided in the Popes, or Bishops of Rome, as being the successors of St. Peter. Consequently, to be true followers of Christ, all Christians, both among the clergy and the laity, must be in communion w. the See of Rome, where Peter rules in the person of his successors’  
– James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore

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‘The infallibility of the Popes does not signify that they are inspired. The Apostles were endowed w. the gift of inspiration, and we accept their writings as the revealed word of God’ ...

‘What, then, is the real doctrine of infallibility? It simply means that the Pope, as successor of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, by virtue of the promises of Jesus Christ, is preserved from error of judgment when he promulgates to the Church a decision on faith or morals. The Pope, therefore, be it known, is not the maker of the divine law; he is only its expounder. He is not the author of rev. but only its interpreter. . . .

‘All revelation came from God alone through His inspired ministers, and it was complete in the beginning of the Church. The Holy Father has no more authority than you or I to break one iota of the Scripture, and he is equally w. us the servants of the divine law’ – Gibbons

1. Why are pope’s interpretations in less danger of misrepresentation than writings of apostles?
2. If pope is the infallible interpreter of Bible, is it not his duty to state what Bible teaches?
3. If he changes what Bible teaches...

I. 'Pope' Claim Of Catholicism

II. 'Peter' Position  
Of Catholicism

# Mt.10:2, 'in every list, Peter is named first

- First in line does not necessarily equal superior rank.

Reuben,  
Gn.49:3

Adam,  
1 Co.15:45ff.

Peter,  
Gal.2:9



# Mt.18:18, 'Peter is rock on which church is built'

- OT evidence: Ps.118:22 [Mt.21:41; Is.28:16]
- Language: *petros*: 'little Rock, pebble'; *petra*: massive stone; (16x of Christ)...
- Context (Mt.16): views of Jesus...
- Geography: something greater than Peter (receives keys to lock / unlock); built on Christ, as city on ledge...

# Mt.18:18, 'Peter is rock on which church is built'

Context matches illustrations:

- Mt.16:5-6, forgot bread: leaven...
- Lk.5:10f., Sea of Galilee: fishers...
- Jn.2:14-22, temple: three days...
- Jn.4:10-14, well: never thirst
- Jn.10:22-29, sheep: True Shepherd
- Jn.15:1-8, Mt. Olivet: True Vine
- Mt.16:18, Caesarea: Rock/foundation

# Caesarea Philippi



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- Remote context: Ac.4:11-12; 1 Co.3

# Mt.18:18, 'Peter is rock on which church is built'

## Facts about Peter

- Mt.18:18, future perfect tense
- Mt.20:25-26, other apostles did not understand Peter was supreme
  - Lord could end argument quickly...
- Mt.16:23, if 'Stone' = foundation of church, what of 'Satan'? (Enemy?)

Lk.22:32, 'Because Peter was foundation-stone of Church, Jesus prayed particularly for him'

- Jesus prayed for Peter because He saw weakness and danger
  - He says NOTHING about Peter's supremacy or successors
- 32, *confirm* brethren does not mean rule over, but *strengthen*
  - Peter who denied Lord could sympathize with weak

## Jn.21:15-17 – Gibbons

- Where does Peter's voice claim 'pope'?
- Peter denied Lord 3x; must affirm love 3x. Others shepherd – 1 Pt.5:2; Ac.20
- If we need pope to interpret NT, then each pope needs other popes to interpret his message
- If we can't understand message of 'pope Peter,' what of present pope?
- Why didn't Peter interpret rest of NT?

I. 'Pope' Claim Of Catholicism

II. 'Peter' Position Of Catholicism

III. 'Pope' Claim  
Examined In NT



Not one pope, cardinal, archbishop...  
found in NT. Ph.1:1

1. Most important part of body: head
  - 400 years without head
2. If Peter = pope AD 41-67, who was pope from 30-41?
3. Great schism: 2-3 heads?

NT strongly teaches AGAINST  
anything like a pope

Mt.8:14, Peter was married (1 Co.9:5)

Mt.20:25-26, *not so among you*

Mt.23:8-9, *call no one father...*

Romans 16, *no mention of pope*

1 Co.12:28, '*first*' are apostles; no pope

Ep.4:11, sums up *gifts* Jesus gave  
church; no pope

# Roman Catholicism assumes that . . .

1. Jesus established kingdom that includes pope; wields universal power
2. He gave headship to Peter...
3. He established successorship to Peter throughout all ages
4. Pope is rightful heir to this succession