



Catholicism

Papacy



# Resources

## Books

- “10 Most Important Things You Can Say to a Catholic” - Ron Rhodes
- “The Gospel According to Rome” - James G. McCarthy
- “The Roman Catholic Controversy” - James R. White
- “The Fatal Flaw” - James R. White
- “Answers to Catholic Claims” - James R. White
- “Roman Catholics and Evangelicals: Agreements and Disagreements” - Norman L. Geisler & Ralph MacKenzie
- History of Papacy article -  
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ihGmhMEJbBr3r6Cg8LJ8bDyd4cltrZob>

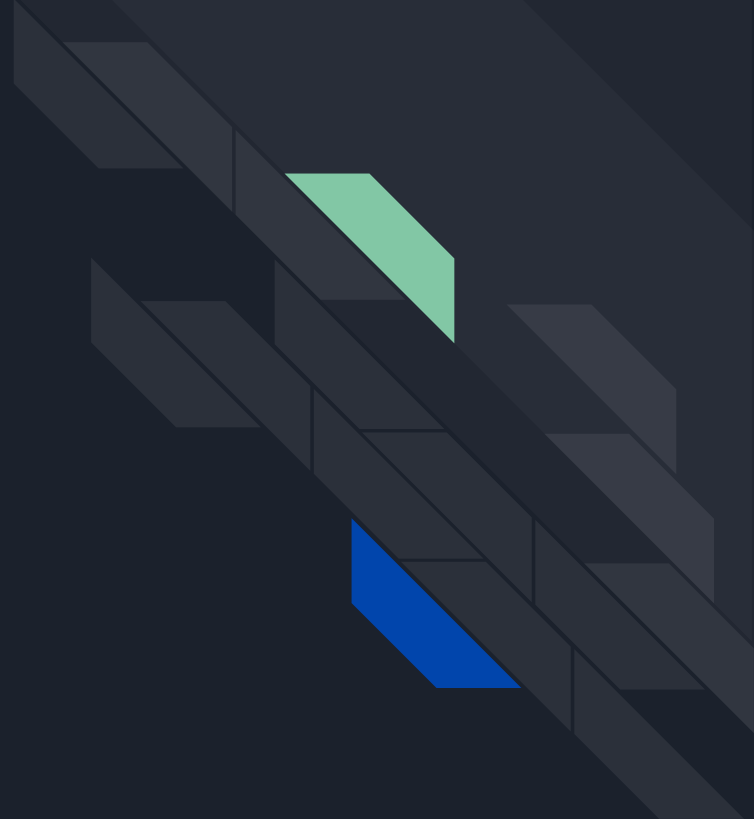
## Audio/Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7CwA6quQSmnO3mgCHqZ2Qu0i2v-tMiTN>



- Catholic View of the Papacy
- Break
- Response to the Catholic View
- Advice for Discussing the Papacy with Catholics
- Questions

# Catholic View of the Papacy





# Catholic View of the Papacy

We therefore teach and declare that, according to the testimony of the Gospel, the primacy of jurisdiction over the universal Church of God was immediately and directly promised and given to Blessed Peter the Apostle by Christ the Lord. For it was to Simon alone, to whom he had already said, "You shall be called Cephas" (John 1:42), that the Lord, after the confession made by him, saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God", addressed these solemn words: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father, who is in heaven.

Continued on next slide...



# Catholic View of the Papacy

And I say to you, that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound, even in heaven. And whatever you shall release on earth shall be released, even in heaven." (Mt 16:16-19). And it was upon Simon alone that Jesus, after His Resurrection, bestowed the jurisdiction of Chief Pastor and Ruler over all His fold, by the words: "Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep." (John 21:15-17).

Continued on next slide...



# Catholic View of the Papacy

At open variance with this clear doctrine of Holy Scripture, as it has ever been understood by the Catholic Church, are the perverse opinions of those who, while they distort the form of government established by Christ the Lord in His Church, deny that Peter, in his single person, preferably to all the other Apostles, whether taken separately or together, was endowed by Christ with a true and proper primacy of jurisdiction; or of those who assert that the same primacy was not bestowed immediately and directly upon Blessed Peter himself, but upon the Church, and through the Church on Peter as her Minister.

Continued on next slide...



# Catholic View of the Papacy

If anyone, therefore, shall say that Blessed Peter the Apostle was not appointed the Prince of all the Apostles and the visible Head of the whole Church Militant; or that the same, directly and immediately, received from the same, Our Lord Jesus Christ, a primacy of honor only, and not of true and proper jurisdiction; let him be anathema. - **First Vatican Council Dogmatic Constitution, Pastor Aeternus**





# Catholic View of the Papacy

We, for the preservation, safe-keeping, and increase of the Catholic flock, with the approval of the Sacred Council, judge it to be necessary to propose, for the belief and acceptance of all the faithful, in accordance with the ancient and constant faith of the universal Church, the doctrine of the institution, perpetuity, and nature of the sacred Apostolic Primacy - **First Vatican Dogmatic Constitution, Pastor Aeternus**



# Catholic View of the Papacy

All the faithful of Christ must believe that the Apostolic See and the Roman Pontiff hold primacy over the whole world, and that the Pontiff of Rome himself is the successor of the blessed Peter, the chief of the apostles, and is the true Vicar of Christ and head of the whole Church and faith, and teacher of all Christians. - **First Vatican Council**



# Catholic View of the Papacy

We teach and define that it is a divinely-revealed dogma: that the Roman Pontiff, when he speaks ex Cathedra, that is, when in discharge of the office of Pastor and Teacher of all Christians, by virtue of his supreme Apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine regarding faith or morals to be held by the Universal Church, by the divine assistance promised to him in blessed Peter, is possessed of that infallibility with which the divine Redeemer willed that His Church should be endowed for defining doctrine regarding faith or morals: and that therefore such definitions of the Roman Pontiff are irreformable of themselves, and not from the consent of the Church. But if anyone -- God forbid -- should presume to contradict this Our definition; let him be anathema. - **First Vatican Council**



# Catholic View of the Papacy

"Furthermore, in order to restrain petulant spirits, It decrees, that no one, relying on his own skill, shall,--in matters of faith, and of morals pertaining to the edification of Christian doctrine, --wresting the sacred Scripture to his own senses, presume to interpret the said sacred Scripture contrary to that sense which holy mother Church,--whose it is to judge of the true sense and interpretation of the holy Scriptures,--hath held and doth hold;" - **Council of Trent**



# Catholic View of the Papacy

**100** The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, to the Pope and to the bishops in communion with him

Consequently, we declare, state, define, and pronounce that it is altogether necessary to salvation for every human creature to be subject to the Roman Pontiff. - **Pope Boniface, Unam Sanctum (1302)**



# Catholic View of the Papacy

**Matthew 16:18-19 NKJV** - "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

**Luke 22:31-32 NKJV** - And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."



# Catholic View of the Papacy

**John 21:15-17 NKJV** - So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."



# Catholic View of the Papacy

**For a pronouncement to be “ex cathedra” it must**

- Fulfill his office as supreme pastor and teacher of all Christians
- Accord with his supreme apostolic authority, i.e., as a successor of Peter
- Determine a doctrine of faith and morals
- Impose a doctrine to be held definitively by all

Pope is not infallible when pronouncing on matters that do not pertain to faith and morals



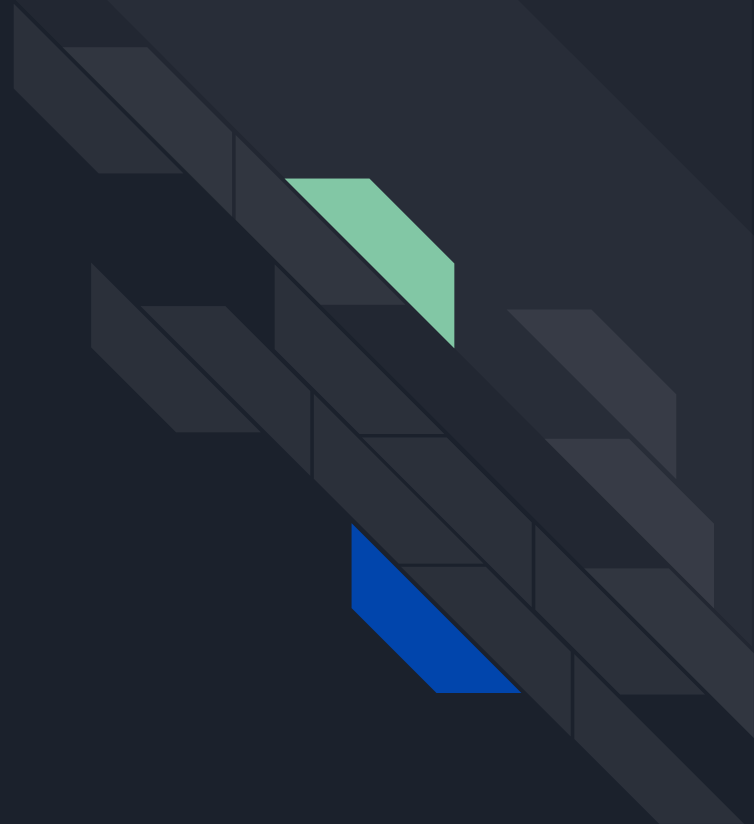


# Catholic View of the Papacy

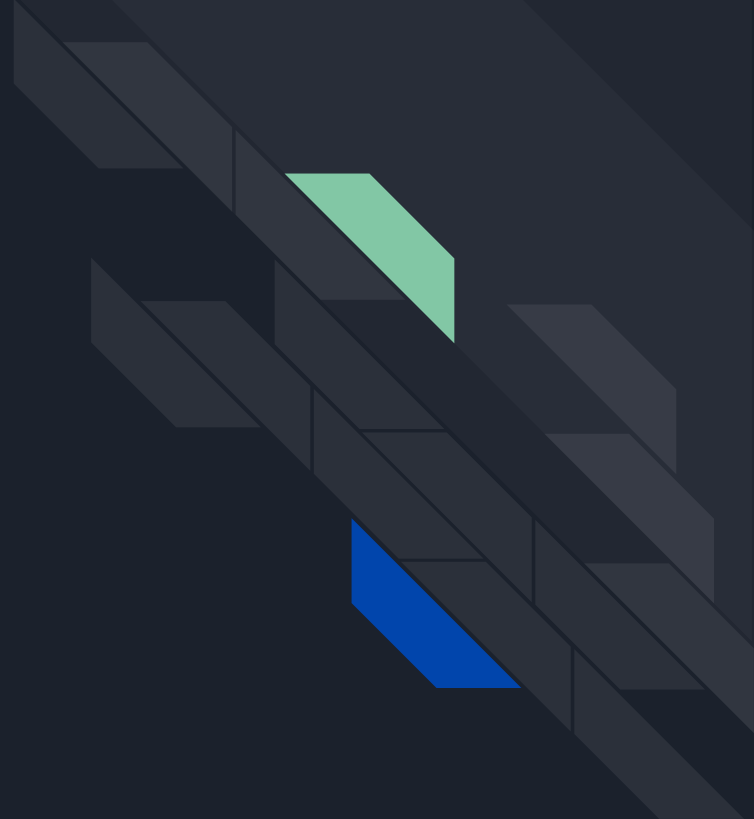
## Summary

- Office and primacy of papacy was promised and given to Peter
- Office is given to successors
- Doctrine has “ever been understood”
- Doctrine is “ancient and constant”
- Infallible when speaking “ex cathedra”
- Pope is ultimate authority in interpreting scripture
- Being subject to Pope is necessary for salvation
- Peter is first bishop of Rome
- Anathema issued

BREAK



# Response to the Catholic View





# Response to the Catholic View

- Jesus is without question speaking to Peter in Matthew 16, and in so doing is identifying him as the rock upon which the church is built
- The words the Lord Jesus speaks establish Peter as the “prince of the Apostles,” the very first pope, the head of the Christian Church.
- These words necessarily indicate the creation of an office of Pope, replete with successors and the associated powers
- The Christian Church has always held this to be her constant and unchanging faith.



# Response to the Catholic View

- Catholic church cannot merely defend that this is probably true or likely, but that it must be beyond question.
- Catholic church claims absolute authority in matters of faith and morals over all believers. They claim infallible teaching authority. The issue of the Papacy is a big deal.
- Remember, they've made salvation contingent upon submitting to the Pope
- They have issued an anathema for those who do not believe in the office and primacy of the Pope



# Response to the Catholic View

## Things we acknowledge

- Peter's name is prominent in the gospel accounts
- Clearly the leading disciple
- His name occurs more often than any other and almost always appears first in any listing given
- He is quick to speak – sometimes good, sometimes bad



# Response to the Catholic View

- Does the NT as a whole lead us to believe that Peter was considered the head of the Church?
- Was Peter viewed as the Vicar of Christ on earth?
- Did Christians of his day think of him as the Holy Father?
- Did the other Apostles recognize Peter as their spiritual head and leader?



# Response to the Catholic View

- Did they instruct people to obey Peter as the Pope?
- Does the NT lead us to believe that there was an office of Pope to which all Christians looked for guidance and on which the Church's unity itself was founded?
- Do we find in the words, actions, and writings of Peter evidence that he interpreted Jesus' words in Matthew 16:18-19 in the way modern Roman Catholics do?





# Response to the Catholic View

## Gospels themselves deny that any of the Apostles held a position of authority

**Luke 22:24-30 NKJV** - Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' "But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. "For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. "But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. "And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, "that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

- Arguing who would be greatest
- Do not seem to have understood Matthew 16 to be about Peter as foundation of church
- Jesus treats all disciples alike



# Response to the Catholic View

**Rest of NT shows that Peter did not actually end up taking any supposed position of primacy**

**1 Peter 5:1-2 NKJV** - The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;



# Response to the Catholic View

**2 Timothy 4:16 NKJV** - At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.

- When Paul wrote to the church in Rome (55-57AD), it is clear that Peter was not there
- When Paul was in Rome writing prison epistles, he makes it clear that Peter was not in Rome, or had abandoned him
- No letter from Peter to Rome



# Response to the Catholic View

**2 Corinthians 12:11 NKJV** - I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing.

- Paul considered himself in no way inferior to the chiefest Apostles
- No concept of Papacy



# Response to the Catholic View

**1 Corinthians 12:28 NKJV** - And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

- Paul considered himself in no way inferior to the chiefest Apostles
- No concept of Papacy



# Response to the Catholic View

**Galatians 2:7 NKJV** - But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter

- A clear delineation of Peter's calling to be an Apostle to the Jews
- No hint of Vicar of Christ



# Response to the Catholic View

**Galatians 2:11, 14 NKJV** - Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ... But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"

- If Peter were Pope, Paul would be way out of line to rebuke him for not being straightforward about the truth of the gospel.
- Remember, Pope is supposed to be the supreme authority with regards to faith and morals. But, he misled believers, even to the point of leading Barnabas away.



# Response to the Catholic View

**Acts 8:14 NKJV** - Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

- Does not function as Pope, but as one who is sent to investigate the situation



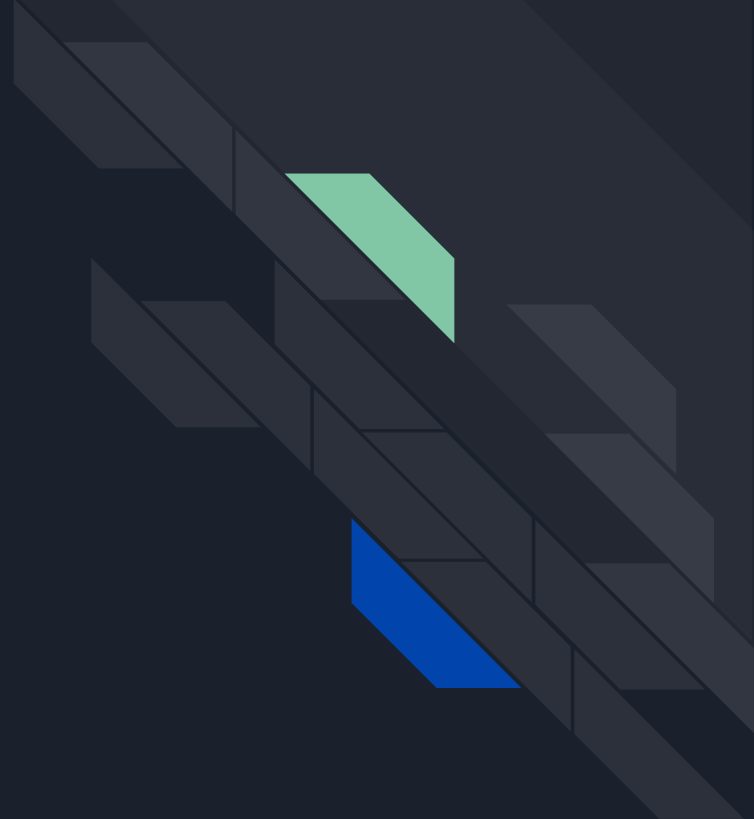


# Response to the Catholic View

**Acts 15:6, 11-13, 19 NKJV** - Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. ... "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they." Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles. And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: ... "Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God,

- Apostles and elders met, not apostles and Pope
- Not under the control of Peter, but James is in charge here
- Peter addresses the group as an Apostle used by God to bring the gospel to the Gentiles, not as Pope
- Letter is written in the names of the apostles and elders
- Last time we hear from Peter in Acts, the supposed head of the church

Matthew 16:18-19





# Response to the Catholic View

**Matthew 16:18-19 NKJV** - "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- When Peter is being referred to, it is in second person ("you"), but "this rock" is in third person
- "Peter" (petros) is a masculine singular but "rock" (petra) is feminine singular. Cannot have same referent.
- Appealing to Aramaic
  - Does not exist
  - What we do have is inspired Greek text



# Response to the Catholic View

Matthew 16:18-19 continued

- Scripture affirms that the church “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone” (**Ephesians 2:20**)
  - All apostles are foundation, not just Peter
  - Jesus is the only given a place of prominence



# Response to the Catholic View

## Matthew 16:18-19 continued

- Interpretation
  - Central theme is Messiahship
  - Jesus' question revolves around His identity
  - When Jesus tells Peter, "I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it," the focus does not change. The subject of the passage remains the identity of Jesus Christ, found in the confession of Peter
  - Continue to verse 20 – "Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ."
  - The rock is the common confession made by all who are part of the Church



# Response to the Catholic View

## Matthew 16:18-19 continued

- The promise to give the keys of the kingdom of heaven to Peter at some time in the future
  - **Matthew 18:18 NKJV** - “Assuredly, I say to you [apostles], whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
  - The giving of the keys is never recorded in scripture.
  - Why is Peter’s primacy in evil not established when Jesus rebukes him just a few verses later?
    - Why only primacy in authority with Jesus’ affirmation?

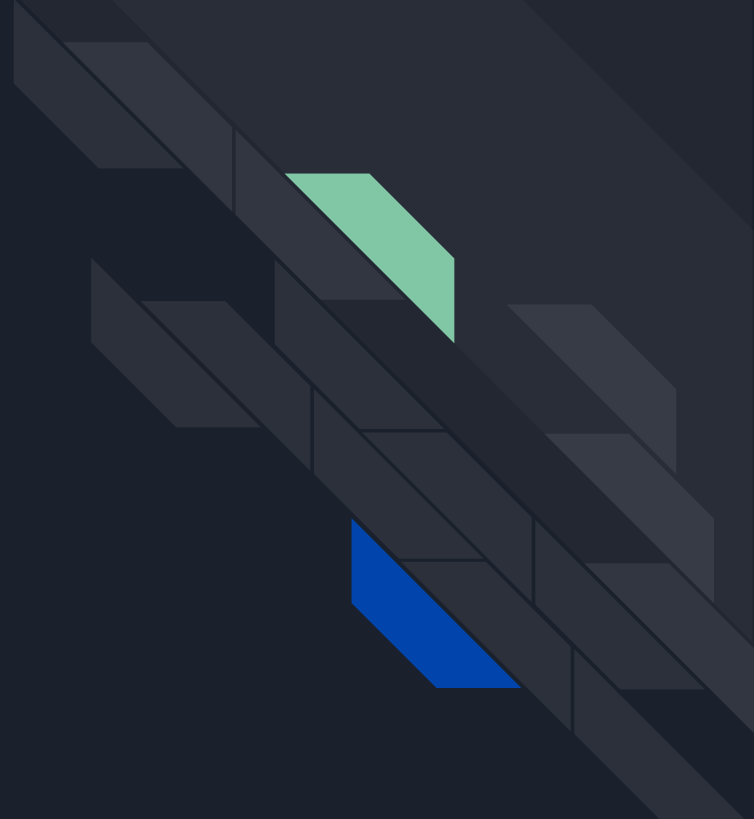


# Response to the Catholic View

Matthew 16:18-19 continued

“On this rock, therefore, He said, which thou hast confessed. I will build my Church. For the Rock (petra) is Christ; and on this foundation was Peter himself built.” – Augustine, “On the Gospel of John”

John 21:15-17







# Response to the Catholic View

**John 21:15-17 NKJV** - So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.



# Response to the Catholic View

John 21:15-17 continued

- No reference to infallible authority
- The threefold command is restorative in nature. He denied Jesus three times.
- Passage speaks more to Peter's weakness than to Peter's authority



# Response to the Catholic View

## John 21:15-17 continued

- If anyone asks for what cause he asked Simon only, though the other disciples were present, and what he means by “Feed my lambs,” and the like, we answer that St. Peter, with the other disciples, had been already chosen to the Apostleship, but because meanwhile Peter had fallen (for under great fear he had thrice denied the Lord), he now heals him that was sick, and exacts a threefold confession in place of his triple denial, contrasting the former with the latter, and compensating the fault with the correction. – **Cyril of Alexandria (c. 370-444)**



# Response to the Catholic View

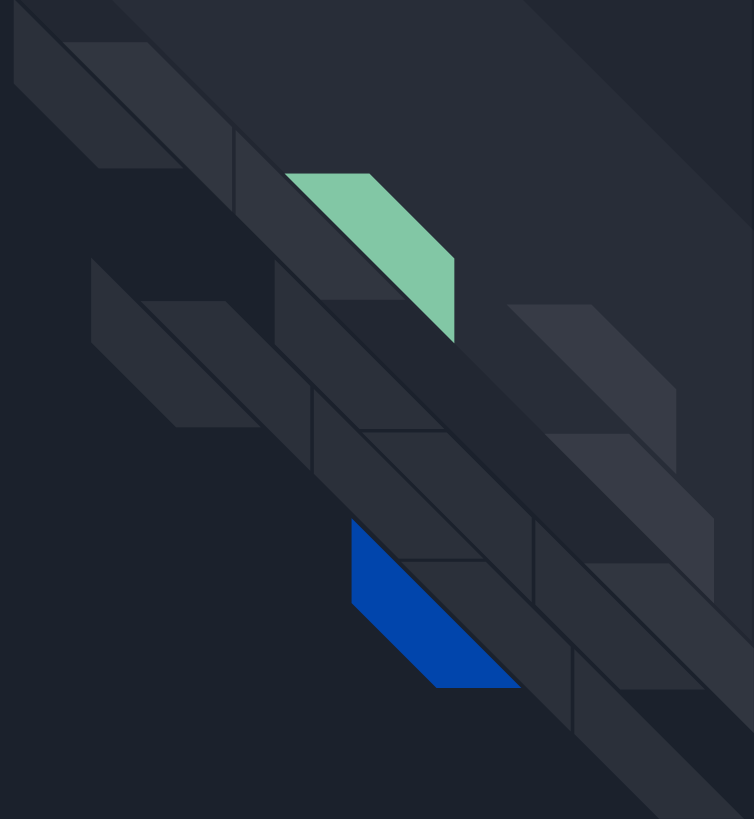
## John 21:15-17 continued

- “Shepherding the flock” is used for non-Apostles

**Acts 20:28 NKJV** - Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

**Ephesians 4:11-12 NKJV** - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Luke 22:31-32





# Response to the Catholic View

**Luke 22:31-32 NKJV** - And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

- Peter needed pastoral care
- Peter is simply being instructed to strengthen his brother after he himself is restored and strengthened by Christ

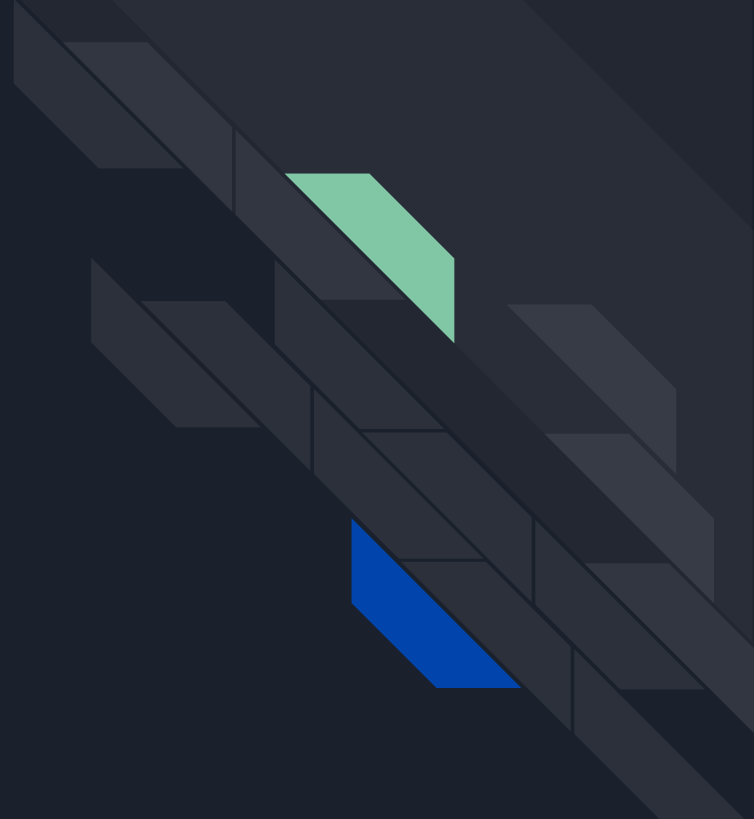


# Response to the Catholic View

## Luke 22:31-32 continued

- Paul uses same terminology
  - **Romans 1:11 NKJV** - For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established
  - **Romans 16:25 NKJV** - Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ

# Theological Problems







# Theological Problems

## Heretical Pope

- Pope Honorius (625-638)
- Taught monothelite heresy - one will in Christ
- Pope Leo II (682-683) confirmed Honorius' anathematization
- Claiming fallibility only undermines the concept of infallibility



# Theological Problems

## Heretical Pope continued

- How can one know when his doctrinal pronouncements are infallible and when they are not? There is no infallible test.
  - Catholic church will claim there are tests, however, this is not definite as to which pronouncements are infallible.
  - No infallible statement on just what are the criteria
  - Not universal agreement on the criteria
  - Why did the Sixth Council condemn Honorius as a heretic?

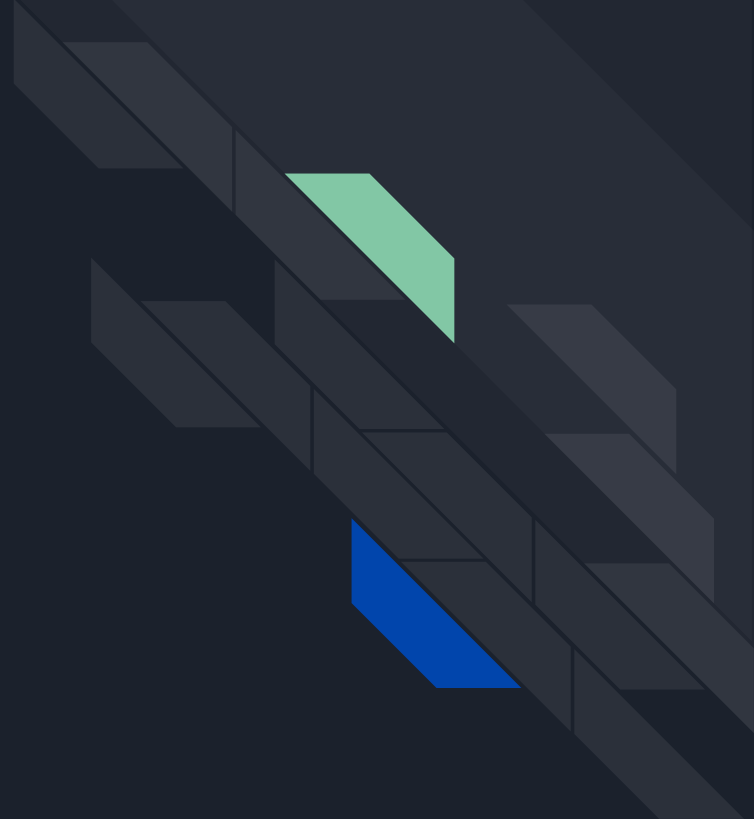


# Theological Problems

One of the main reasons Catholic authorities offer to argue the need for an infallible teaching magisterium is that we need infallible guidance to understand God's infallible revelation.

- How is an infallible interpretation any better than the infallible revelation? To claim that God's infallible unveiling in the Bible needs further infallible unveiling by God says that it was not unveiled properly to begin with.
- It is interesting that Catholic theology maintains that unbelievers should and can understand the truth of natural law apart from the teaching magisterium (**Romans 1:20**). Why then should they need an infallible teaching magisterium in order to understand properly divine law?

# Philosophical Problems





# Philosophical Problems

- Catholic scholars admit there is no infallible evidence that there is an infallible teaching magisterium. They have merely probable arguments. If this is the case, then there is no more than a probable basis for Catholics to believe that a supposedly infallible pronouncement is true. They are in no better position to be certain about matters of faith and morals than are Protestants
  - The claim to have an infallible interpretation of the infallible scriptures only *sounds* more certain

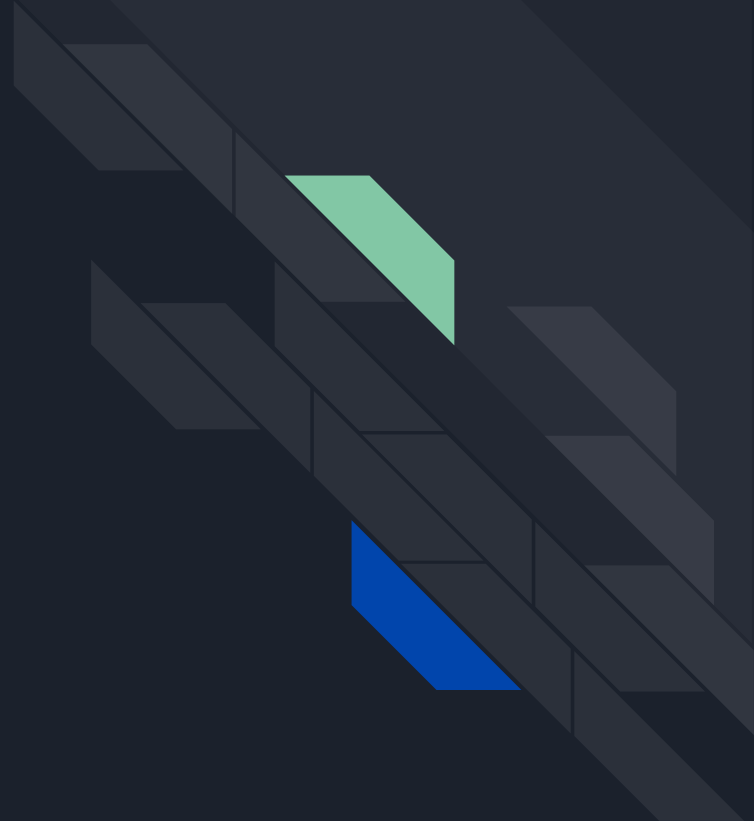


# Philosophical Problems

## Death by qualifications

- Once all the qualifications are placed on infallibility, both in theory and in practice, it is defrocked of its glory
- These criteria are not infallibly pronounced
- Not universally accepted
- If the pope was not infallible when excommunicating Galileo or when teaching heresy, then how can we be sure when he really acts infallibly? If we cannot ever be sure, then what good is the doctrine of infallibility?

# Historical Problems





# Historical Problems

## Anti-popes

- “there have been about thirty-five anti-popes in the history of the church.” – **Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church**
  - Which is the true Pope? Since there is no infallible list of popes or even an infallible way to determine, there is a serious logical problem



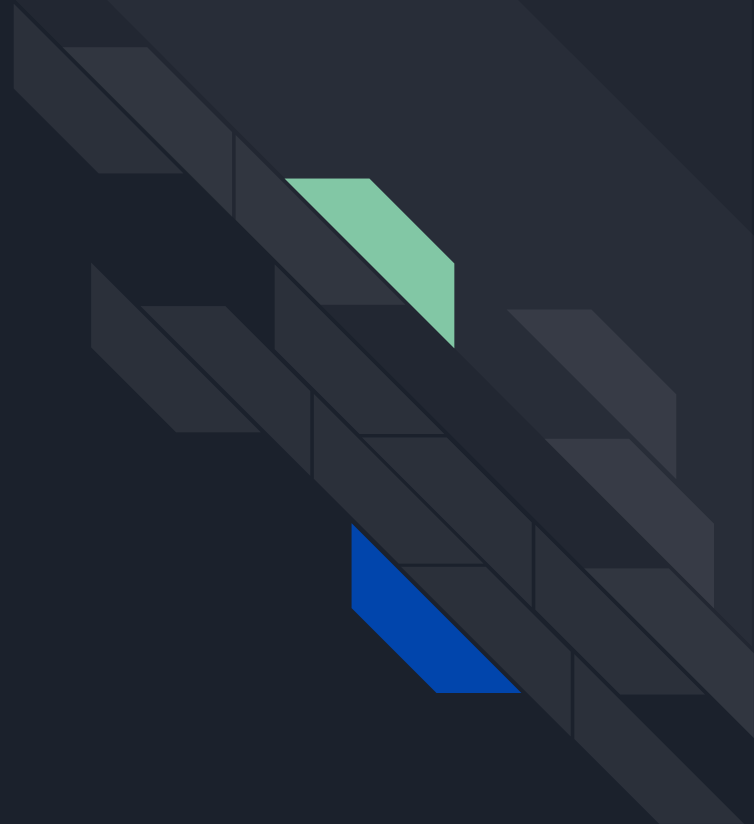


# Historical Problems

**No concept of primacy until mid-late 2nd century**

Link to article provided in Resources page (page 2)

Miscellaneous





# Miscellaneous Responses

**Matthew 23:9 NKJV** - "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

- Father in the faith is different than what the Papacy is claiming – “Alter Christus,” “Vicar of Christ,” “Father (guardian) of the whole church”
- **1 Corinthians 4:15 NKJV** - For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.
- **Titus 1:4 NKJV** - To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.
- **John 8:56 NKJV** - "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

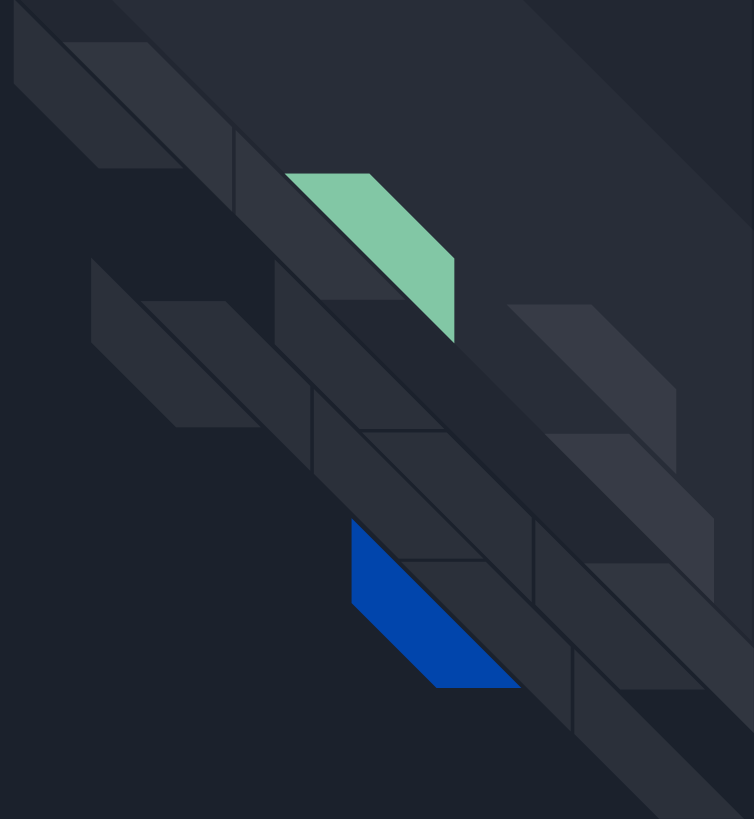


# Miscellaneous Responses

**John 14:16, 26 NKJV** - "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- ... "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

- Only vicar of Christ is Holy Spirit
- **John 16:13-14 NKJV** - "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

# Advice for Discussing the Papacy with Catholics





# Advice for Discussing the Papacy with Catholics

- Get a good understanding of the qualifications on infallibility. This will help you avoid strawman arguments.
  - “Isn’t the Pope supposed to be infallible (perfect)?”
- Ask tough questions about bible verses presented. Remember, the burden of proof is on the Catholic.
  - “How do we go from praying for Peter to making him chief apostle and infallible with successors?”
  - What is the logical connection?



# Advice for Discussing the Papacy with Catholics

- Remember that claims of certainty. Ask the Catholic to defend those claims.
  - “Is it really an open and shut case?”
- Bring up history
  - Pope Honorius condemned as a heretic - what are the implications for infallibility
  - No concept of primacy of bishop of Rome in early church, especially in Bible



# Advice for Discussing the Papacy with Catholics

## One question I like

- “How do you interpret a certain verse if the Pope and magisterium have not issued an infallible interpretation?”



Questions?

