

## **THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PAPACY**

### **An Analysis of Roman Catholic Doctrine and the Word of God**

**Source:** Catechism of the Catholic Church, published by Libreria Editrice Vaticana (Italian for: Vatican Publishing House which was established in 1926 by Pope Pius XI. It is responsible for publishing official documents of the Roman Catholic Church, including Papal bulls and encyclicals. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is the official source for all Roman Catholic doctrine and contains the official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

**Source:** The Bible

#### **1 - PAPAL OFFICE**

Roman Catholicism's interpretation of Matthew 16:18-19 is that, on that occasion, Jesus appointed Peter to be the first Pope and Universal Pastor and head of the entire Christian Church.

**Catechism of the Catholic Church:** "The Lord made St. Peter the visible foundation of his Church. He entrusted the keys of the Church to him. The bishop of the Church of Rome, successor to St. Peter, is head of the college of bishops, the Vicar of Christ and Pastor of the universal Church on earth. The Pope enjoys, by divine institution, supreme, full, immediate, and universal power in the care of souls." Pages 245-246, paragraphs 936 and 937

#### **Catechism of the Catholic Church:**

"The Lord made Simon alone, whom he named Peter, the "rock" of His Church. He gave him the keys of His Church and instituted him shepherd of the whole flock." Page 233, paragraph 881

#### **The Bible:**

Ephesians 4:11

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers"

First Corinthians 12:28

"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."

#### **Conclusion:**

Contrary to Romanism, there is no office of "Pope" mentioned in the New Testament passages that list the offices and gifts that Christ gives to His church. Furthermore there is no indication that one man would, at any time, preside as Pastor over the worldwide church of Jesus Christ.

## **2 - PAPAL TEACHING AUTHORITY**

Roman Catholicism regards the Roman Pontiff or Pope to be the supreme teacher of the entire church consisting of 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide.

**Catechism of the Catholic Church:** "The *Pope*, Bishop of Rome and Peter's successor, is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the whole company of the faithful. For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered." Page 234, paragraph 882

**Catechism of the Catholic Church:** "The Roman Pontiff...as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful..." Page 235, paragraph 891

**Summary:** Romanism elevates the Pope to the position of "supreme pastor and teacher" of the entire, worldwide church.

### **The Bible:**

John 14:26 "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."

John 16:13 "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."

And, in 1 Corinthians chapter 2, the Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that God's Holy Spirit, not any man, is the infallible teacher of all Christians:

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. <sup>13</sup> These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches..."

**Conclusion:** By claiming to be the "supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful" and of "the entire Church," all Catholic Popes usurp the position and ministry of the Holy Spirit of God.

### **3 - PAPAL INFALLIBILITY**

Romanism teaches that the Pope is infallible in matters pertaining to faith and Christian doctrine and that his infallible doctrines must be believed and adhered to by all Catholics. Papal infallibility means that the Pope is incapable of error when he teaches a doctrine on faith or morals to the universal Church in his unique office as its supreme head. Romanism teaches that, when the Pope asserts his official authority in matters of faith and morals to the whole church, the Holy Spirit guards him from error.

**Catechism of the Catholic Church:** "In order to preserve the Church in the purity of the faith handed on by the apostles, Christ who is the Truth willed to confer on her a share in his own infallibility. By a "supernatural sense of faith" the People of God, under the guidance of the Church's living Magisterium, "unfailingly adheres to this faith." Page 235, paragraph 889

Definition: The "**Magisterium**" is the authority that lays down what is the authentic teaching of the Church. For the Catholic Church, that authority is vested uniquely in the Pope and the bishops who are in communion with him.

**Catechism of the Catholic Church:** "The Roman Pontiff, head of the college of bishops, enjoys this infallibility in virtue of his office, when, as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful - who confirms his brethren in the faith he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals...The infallibility promised to the Church is also present in the body of bishops when, together with Peter's successor, they exercise the supreme Magisterium, above all in an Ecumenical Council. When the Church through its supreme Magisterium proposes a doctrine "for belief as being divinely revealed," and as the teaching of Christ, the definitions "must be adhered to with the obedience of faith." Page 235, paragraph 891

**The Bible:** The Word of God nowhere indicates that anyone is capable of perfection or infallibility in anything. In fact, we are all sinful by nature, fall short of God's perfection and righteousness, and continue to fall into sin:

James 3:2 "For we all stumble in many things..."

Romans 3:23 "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:10 "As it is written, 'There is none righteous, no not one.'"

Furthermore, Scripture abounds with accounts of sinful, fallible people whom God nonetheless chose to use such as King David, "a man after God's own heart" - despite his adultery with Bathsheba and his murder of Uriah.

Also, the Apostles, especially Peter, Romanism's alleged first Pope - wasn't infallible in matters "pertaining to faith." Because, in Galatians 2, there's an incident where Peter was blameworthy in a matter related to faith and practice - so serious that the Apostle Paul had to confront him and publicly rebuke him

Galatians 2:11-14

"Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; <sup>12</sup> for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. <sup>13</sup> And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. <sup>14</sup> 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?"

### **Conclusion:**

No human being is infallible in matters "pertaining to faith" - not even the Apostle Peter was. In fact, only Jesus Christ is infallible and incapable of error because He alone is the perfect God-man who is without sin.

## **4 - PAPAL WORSHIP**

Popes routinely accept worship from Roman Catholics and often from people of other faiths. Below is the recommend Vatican protocol for Catholics when meeting or addressing the Pope in person:

- 1. Refer to the Pope as "Holy Father."** Other appropriate ways to address the Pope in person include "Your Holiness" and "Most Holy Father." "His Holiness" and "Holy Father" both address the Pope by his title and position in the Church. You should address the Pope only by these titles rather than by his name when speaking to him face-to-face.
- 2. Stand and applaud as the Pope enters.** The amount of applause will vary depending on the venue, but you should always stand in respect once the Pope walks into the room you are in. Usually, if the venue is a small room with a small to mid-size crowd, the applause is quiet and polite. For large venues, however, like a stadium Mass, loud applause and even cheers are appropriate.
- 3. Genuflect as the Pope approaches.** If the Pope approaches you directly, you should kneel with your right knee bent to the floor. You do not need to make the Sign of the Cross, as you would do while genuflecting to the Eucharist, but you should still bend at the knee. Genuflection is a sign of high respect.

**4. Kiss his ring, when appropriate.** If you are Catholic and if the Pope offers you his hand, that would be an appropriate time to plant a quick yet respectful kiss on the Piscatory ring, also known as the Ring of the Fisherman, traditionally worn by the Pope. On the other hand, if the Pope offers you his hand and you are not Catholic, you are not obligated to kiss the ring. You could simply shake his hand, instead. The Ring of the Fisherman is a symbol and mark of the office. By kissing it, you show both respect and sincere affection for the man who holds that office.

**The Bible:** The Word of God condemns all worship of the creature and regards it as idolatry. Any adoration or worship given by man to men is flatly denounced in Scripture as unacceptable and reprehensible. Christ's Apostles consistently refused to receive any worship from men. For example, when the Apostle Peter (who presumably was the first Pope) was worshipped by Cornelius in Acts chapter 10, how did Peter respond?

Acts 10:25-26 "As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshipped him. <sup>26</sup> But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."

When the Apostle Paul had healed a crippled man in Lystra, and the people began to worship him (and Barnabus) as gods with sacrifices, how did the apostles respond?

Acts 14:14-15 " But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out <sup>15</sup> and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you..."

**Conclusion:**

Although Popes accept and receive worship from the Roman Catholic laity and from people of other faiths, the Bible and Apostolic example condemn it.

## **5 - PAPAL ENDORSEMENT OF ECUMENISM AND UNIVERSALISM**

The Pope of the Roman Catholic Church is a strong advocate and proponent of ecumenism which is promoting unity among all churches that profess by name to be "Christian" under the umbrella and auspices of Catholicism - and of universalism which regards people of all faiths and beliefs as "brothers and sister" who all worship the one true God.

On March 20, 2013, one week after becoming the 266th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, whose papal name is after Francis of Assisi, addressed a large audience of representatives in Clementine Hall near St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City. His audience consisted of Catholic church representatives (cardinals and bishops), representatives of many Ecclesial Communities (which are Christian religious groups that don't meet the Catholic definition of a "church") - and of representatives of various world religions - and this is part of what Pope Francis said to this audience:

"Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is a source of particular joy for me to meet today with you, the delegates of the Orthodox Churches, of the Oriental Orthodox Churches and of the Ecclesial Communities of the West. I thank you for taking part in the celebration which marked the beginning of my ministry as the Bishop of Rome and the Successor of Peter...I thank the [Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity](#) for the help that it continues to provide, in my name, in the service of this most noble cause (of ecumenism). Along with you, I cannot forget all that the Council meant for the progress of ecumenism. For my part, I wish to assure you that, in continuity with my predecessors, it is my firm intention to pursue the path of ecumenical dialogue. [I also greet and cordially thank all of you, dear friends who are followers of other religious traditions; first Muslims, who worship God as one, living and merciful, and invoke him in prayer, and all of you.](#)"

### **Summary:**

From his remarks to this audience, Pope Francis demonstrated that he does not believe what our Lord said in John 14:6 namely, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life**" and that "**No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" Nor does the Pope believe what the Apostle Peter said about Jesus in Acts 4:12 when he preached to the religious leaders of Israel saying, "**Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**"

Pope Francis's desire is not only to unite all Christians under the umbrella of Rome by promoting unity among all churches that call themselves, "Christian" (which is the essence of ecumenism); but Pope Francis also regards "[other religious traditions](#)" such as Islam ("[Muslims](#)") as those "[who worship God as one, living and merciful](#)" and who "[invoke him \(God\) in prayer](#)" (which is the essence of universalism).