

THE INFALLIBLE POPE

1994 CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

1. **Given to preserve the Church**

In order to preserve the Church in the purity of the faith handed on by the Apostles, Christ who is truth willed to confer on her a share in his own infallibility. (No. 889)

The Roman Pontiff . . . enjoys this infallibility in the virtue of his office when, as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful - he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals . . . This infallibility extends as far as the deposit of divine Revelation itself. (No. 891)

2. **The Popes Infallibility gives him supreme authority**

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 (No. 882)

3. **Successor of Peter**

The Roman pontiff has by divine right as the successor of Peter to whom Christ entrusted the task of feeding his sheep, supreme, full, immediate, and universal power in the care of souls . . . therefore he has supreme ordinary power over all churches (Vatican II, Bishop, Para. 2)

4. **This Power was Conferred in Matt. 16:18**

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon YOU, this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

SCRIPTURES RESPONSE

1. **The word “rock” in verse 18 refers to Peter’s faith in the Christ of *Matt. 16:16***
And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
2. **Nothing was given to Peter in verse 18, Jesus said,**
“I will build My church.” **Jesus is still building His Church.**
3. **The keys of heaven were given to Peter in *Matt. 16:19***
And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

a. Peter explains

*And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the **word of the gospel**, and believe. Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; (*Acts 15:7, 14-15*)*

*But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: (*Acts 2:14, 22-24*)*

*Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. (*Acts 10:34, 39-40 43*)*

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect,

precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. (1 Pet. 2:5-8)

b. Paul explains

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. (1 Cor. 10:4)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; (Rom. 1:16)

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 3:11)

c. Jesus explains

Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great. (Luke 6:47-49)

4. Jesus appointed NO head or Pontiff

But to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father. (Matt. 20:23)

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: (Matt. 20:25-26)

5. Catholic tradition has Peter ruling in Rome from 42 to 68 A.D. The Scripture says differently. Paul was saved in 37 A.D. Use him as a reference point.

40 A.D. Peter was Pastor of the Church at Jerusalem

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. (Gal. 1:18)

54 A.D. Peter was sent to the Jewish people not to the gentiles

Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right

hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. (Gal. 2:1, 9)

60 A.D. The books of 1 Peter and Romans were written in this year

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son. (1 Pet. 1:1; 5:13)

Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ. (Rom. 16:3-5) No mention of Peter at the Church in Rome.

68 A.D. Paul is writing from the City of Rome

*For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. **Only Luke is with me.** Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. (2 Tim. 4:10-11)*

6. Peter was Not Infallible in his teaching

*But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw **that they walked not uprightly according to the truth** of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all,. . . (Gal. 2:11-14)*

7. Strong Scriptural Admonition

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. (Jer. 17:5-7)

For I am the LORD, I change not; (Mal. 3:6)

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. (Isa. 8:20)

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. (Heb. 13:8-9)