



## Jesus Christ Had Friends by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Roman Catholic Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano` has charged the former Archbishop of Washington, Theodore McCarrick, with predatory homosexual practices. McCarrick, who has resigned from the College of Cardinals, was brought to the attention of Jorge Mario Bergoglio (aka "Pope Francis") who became "Supreme Pontiff" (aka "Pope") on March 13, 2013. Once Vigano's letter was printed in media, Bergoglio has refused to address the issue of Roman Catholicism's cover-up and ignoring of predatory homosexual practices over the years.

This is spiritually important to Roman Catholics, because:

"The Church's teaching about **the authority and ministry of the Pope** within the Church places, also by the express will of Christ, **that authority and ministry at the very center of her hierarchical structure**. The universal authority of the Roman Pontiff, witnessed to throughout the history of Christianity and **proposed as a dogma of faith by the Council of Florence in 1439**,<sup>[19]</sup> was given a **detailed dogmatic explanation by Vatican Council I in 1870** in its dogmatic constitution on the Church of Christ (Pastor aeternus). This document, in turn, was taken up and confirmed by Vatican Council II in 1964....

**Christ is the Shepherd; Christ is the Bishop.** This is Peter's message because when Jesus promised him the primacy Peter heard him speak of my Church, not your Church. **All bishops, with Peter at their head, are vicars, that is, they take the place of Christ on earth.** To enable them to fulfill their mission of service he conferred on them the necessary power.

"The Papacy and the Primacy of Peter" by Pedro Rodriguez, [www.catholicworldreport.com](http://www.catholicworldreport.com)

THIS INCIDENT SPOTLIGHTS SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCHES OF CHRIST:

### 1. **The Roman Catholic Church (RCC) claims their bishops "are vicars, that is, they take the place of Christ on earth;"**

**ANSWER:** Of Jesus Christ the New Testament teaches:

He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (**Colossians 1:17-18**)

- a. Only Jesus Christ, not "the Pope," was Creator of "all things;"
- b. Only Jesus Christ, not "the Pope," is the "head of the body, the church;"

- c. Only Jesus Christ, not any dead "Pope," has been raised from the dead, so that only Jesus Christ, not a "Pope," should "have the preeminence."

No one takes "the place of Christ on earth!" Jesus Christ, not Peter, was singled out in the New Testament as the Head of the church! NO ONE ON EARTH HAS EVER, OR SHOULD EVER, BE CALLED "HIS EMINENCE," FOR JESUS CHRIST HAS ALL THE "EMINENCE" THERE IS IN HIS CHURCH!

**2. The RCC calls its human head "Pope," which is Latin for "Papa or Father;"**

**ANSWER:** Concerning Pharisaic use of spiritual titles, Jesus said,

"But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ" (**Matthew 23:5-10**).

The terms "Rabbi," "father," "teacher," all may have physical application, but none of these should ever be given to someone who claims to be our source of spiritual guidance! All who have used as such have erred greatly. Jesus Christ, His Church, and through the New Testament written by His Apostles, are all whom God has ordained to guide souls to Heaven.

**3. The RCC "Pope" refuses to explain to his church the predatory sexual practices of his hierarchy;**

**ANSWER:** Jesus said to His disciples,

"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" (**John 15:14-15**).

- a. The RCC "Pope" must consider his people "servants," because he doesn't let them know "what his master is doing," and doesn't consider them "friends," because he withholds from them information they need to know about their leaders, Therefore he doesn't represent Jesus Christ!
- b. The RCC "Pope" has to explain practices among his peers things that Jesus never had to explain! Thus, the "Pope" doesn't represent Christ on earth! The honesty of Scripture tells us that though Peter denied Jesus and Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus, never was there ever even one incident among the Apostles of degenerate behavior!
- c. Jesus Christ makes known "all things that I heard from My Father," but the "Pope" either is ignorant of what The Father has said on that subject, or refuses to make it known to his people. In either case, the "Pope" doesn't take the place of Christ on earth!

**4. The R.C.C. "Pope" has no power from God to substantiate his claims.**

**ANSWER:** When did Jesus confer powers on a "Pope?"

- a. Peter was not the first "Pope!" When Jesus said, "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" (**Matthew 16:18**). The name "Peter" is the Greek word "petros" (pebble) but this "rock" is the Greek word "petra" (ledge). Jesus had said to "Simon Peter" (**John 1:40**), "You shall be called Cephas (which is translated, A Stone [Greek *petros*])" (**John 1:42**). Why did Jesus not give Peter the name "Petra" (feminine form) in this passage, to relieve any confusion later? Jesus, and never Peter, is referred to as petra in the New Testament: **Romans 9:33; 1 Corinthians 10:4; 1 Peter 4:8**. After this declaration of Jesus in **Matthew 16:18**, the Apostles were still asking Jesus, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (**Matthew 18:1**).

- b. When, and upon whom, did Peter ever confer power on his successor? If it is not in Scripture (and it isn't!), then the Holy Spirit already has said:

If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. (**1 Corinthians 14:37**)

There is no miraculous working of the Holy Spirit conferring power on anyone since the New Testament was completed.

- c. Paul condemned as "divisions" (Greek *schism*) any who followed Peter, not Jesus, as the Authoritative Head of the church:

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, 'I am of Paul,' or 'I am of Apollos,' or 'I am of Cephas,' or 'I am of Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (**1 Corinthians 1:10-13**).

All who use Peter (or any self-proclaimed successor) as their authority have separated themselves from Jesus Christ.

This decades-old, ongoing scandal of corruption within the Roman Catholic Church has been laid at the feet of Jorge Mario Bergoglio (aka "Pope Francis"), and he has failed to act like, or identify with, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (**Galatians 3:26-27**)

Obey Jesus Christ, not men!

— John T. Polk II