



## IV. RCC Confusion Over the Authority for the Pope by [John T Polk II](#)

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

### IV. RCC Confusion Over the Authority in the Church

#### A. RCC Confusion over the authority for the Pope

1. Those **who said he** is a **Minister NOT Master, Executive NOT Legislative**:
  - a. **Popes:** Pius, Julius, Siricius, Zozimus, Celestine, Sixtus, Gregory, Eugenius, Innocent, Adrian
  - b. **Councils:** Pisa, Constantinople (4th Session), Basil (2nd & 33rd Session) (given "infallible" status)
2. Those **who said he** has **Unlimited Sovereignty**, Civil & Ecclesiastical:
  - a. **Popes:** Celestine, Gelasius, Leo, Nicholas, Gregory the 7th, Urban, Pascal, Boniface the 8th, Clement, Paul the 4th
  - b. **Councils:** **Florence** gave authority to teach all Christians in whole world,
    - 1) Lateran (5th) - gave Leo equal power with the councils,
    - 2) Trent (14th) - "supreme power in the universal church" Cardinal - The pontiff "holds as a mortal God, the place of Christ on earth, and cannot be judged by a general council."
  - c. **Orders:** Jesuits
3. Those **who said he is Equal with God**:

"The pope and the Lord form the same tribunal, so that, sin excepted, the pope can do nearly all that God can do." (Innocent, Jacobatius, Decius)

  - a. **Popes:** Gregory, Nicholas, Innocent
  - b. **Councils:**
    - 1) Lateran
    - 2) Trent - The pope "has the power of dispensing with all laws, and the same authority as the Lord." (Lainez)
4. Those **who said he is Superior to God**:
  - a. **Canon Law:** "The Pope, in the plenitude of his power, is above right, can change the substantial nature of things, and transform unlawful into lawful."
  - b. **Cardinal Bellarmine:** "The Pope can transubstantiate sin into duty, and duty into sin."