



CATHOLIC ORIGIN: PAPACY by [John T Polk II](#)

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

I. ORIGIN OF ROMAN CATHOLICISM

A. The Elements of Idolatry are Condemned in the Bible!

1. Use no image of "nature" **Deuteronomy 4:14-20**
2. Stone to death all who use them **Deuteronomy 17:1-7**
3. Jerusalem destroyed because of their idolatry **Jeremiah 32:26-37**
(2 Kings 23:27)
4. Israelites exchanged God for "nature" in wilderness **Acts 7:35-43**
5. Thessalonians turned from idols to God through the Gospel
1 Thessalonians 1:6-10
6. Corinthians were warned against idolatry
 - a) "Flee" from it **1 Corinthians 10:1-14** (**verses 7, 14**)
 - b) It is demon worship **1 Corinthians 10:20-21**
7. Use effort to avoid idolatry **1 John 5:21**

8. The RCC Applies Christian Terms and Concepts to Idolatrous Practices, Incorporating What Is Already Condemned:

Acts 14:8-18: And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. 9 This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, 10 said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked. 11 Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" 12 And

Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out 15 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, 16 who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." 18 And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.

- a) The miraculous healing of the lame man proved a "god" was visiting them, but which one and through whom was the misguided guess. **Acts 14:11-12**
- b) The "priest of Zeus" intended to continue his idolatrous sacrifices to the "god" of Paul and Barnabas. **Acts 14:13**
- c) The apostles, "Paul and Barnabas," rushed to stop this, lest idolatrous sacrifices would be confused with God's sacrifice of Jesus Christ. **Acts 14:14-15**
- d) The apostles preached in **Acts 14:15-17** that:
 - (1) NO HUMAN is "deity" and worthy of sacrifices directed to him;
 - (2) such sacrifices are "useless"/empty before the living God;
 - (3) there is only ONE Creator who also controls living on Earth;
 - (4) in history, God may SEEM to not be in control of human affairs, but in reality, He is responsible for all of our blessings of food and happiness.

e) Wherever the RCC apostasy has gone, it has incorporated idolatrous practices into the practice of Christianity, and/or used Bible terms for existing idolatrous practices!

B. The Elements of Apostasy are Condemned in the New Testament!

1. Jesus condemned the attitude of apostasy - **Matthew 20:20-28**

a) Who is "greatest" by being "over" is Gentile-thinking!

b) Such should never characterize Jesus' disciples!

c) There is NO "hierarchy" in the church of Christ!

2. Paul condemned the ***re-structuring*** of apostasy – **Acts 20:26-32**

a) Ephesian apostasy did not occur while Paul preach "the whole counsel of God."

b) Apostasy occurs when Elders permit/preach/promote "perverse things."

c) Apostasy is the drawing away of disciples from Jesus' apostolic teaching. **2 Peter 3:1-2**

d) When disciples have been "drawn away," into what are they "drawn?"

e) The only remedy is a return to the "word of His grace."

3. Paul condemned the ***human laws*** of apostasy – **1 Timothy 4:1-6**

a) It takes "lies," "doctrines of demons," and a seared conscience to change God's requirements and add "laws" to what God has said!

b) Marriage and eating meats are choices, not restrictions, and must remain so by the authority of God.

c) If "every creature of God is good," that certainly includes a wife and meats!

d) No one has any authority from God to change what He has said must be done, or left undone (open) for personal decision (ex: **1 Corinthians 7 & 10**).

4. Paul condemned the **willfulness** of apostasy -

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- a) Christians must not change faith and authorized practices by thinking that God has changed or added any Scripture that previously wasn't in our Bibles! (There are no left out Scriptures or missing books of the Bible!)
- b) Because the expression "son of perdition" is only used elsewhere of Judas Iscariot (**John 17:12**), Paul's use here describes anyone who betrays the doctrinal stance of the church of Christ! To identify a specific "antichrist" with this passage is unnecessary, for this person represents all who arrogate for themselves the authority of "God," like "antichrist" represents all who would oppose Jesus Christ and His church! There is not just one "man of sin," just as there is not just one "antichrist."
- c) "The falling away," then "the man of sin" must happen before "the day of Christ" but not necessarily in immediate succession. Obviously there has been "the falling away" for even in the 1st century, in addition to the "mystery of lawlessness" (before the destruction of Jerusalem, **Matthew 24:12**), there were "false Christs (**Mark 13:6**)," false Scriptures (**Luke 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:2**), and "many antichrists" (**1 John 2:18**) in circulation. "The day of Christ" would happen sometime after religious turmoil reached its zenith in "the man of sin," the exact time only in the mind of God (**Matthew 24:36; Acts 17:31**). Such religious confusion and men of sin exist today, so the "day of Christ" is a distinct possibility anytime!
- d) Apostasy is always led by those who do not have a "love of the truth" and have an ego that deigns to think more highly of themselves than they ought to think, and make rules for others thus making it harder for people to be saved than God intended!

5. The RCC is the church of Apostasy, for it is based upon the very things that God condemned!

II. PAPACY

A. The "Papacy" IS the pinnacle of apostasy in "The Roman Catholic Church!"

1. **"There is no difference between the Pope and Jesus Christ"** (St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica xxxiv* and *Papal Bull of Pope Pius V* in 1570.)

2. Catholic Johann Joseph Ignaz von Dollinger, once wrote:

"In future every Catholic Christian when asked why he believes this or that can and may give but the one answer: ***I believe or reject it because the infallible Pope has bidden it to be believed or rejected***" (*Declarations and Letters*, pgs. 101, 101.)

3. Though practiced throughout the centuries under the guise of a "papal bull," the ***doctrine was codified*** on July 18, 1870, when the ***First Vatican Council*** declared by an overwhelming majority 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 is possessed of that infallibility with which the divine Redeemer willed that his church should be endowed.

"Much Ado About Nothing!"

4. **In all of History, there are only two (2) occasions when a Pope has spoken "ex- cathedra"** (this means he is totally infallible, putting his statement(s) on the par with the apostles and those several believers upon whom they had laid their hands to give the Holy Spirit), and **the main interest was to venerate Mary.**

- a) The first of these occasions was in **1854** (however, 21 Archbishops and 64 bishops voted against this new and unheard of authority, so it was only passed after a split vote) when **Pope Pius IX infallibly decreed *Mary was not conceived in original sin.*** Former Jesuit, George Tyrell had the following to say about this type of theatre:

Why should men of today be forced to believe under pain of eternal damnation what St. Thomas [Aquinas] and St. Bernard [and St. Bonaventura, not to mention the Franciscan and Dominican orders] denied with impunity (**Medievalism**, pg. 49.)

- b) Then in **1950, Pope Pius XII decreed that *Mary, after she had died, was bodily assumed up to Heaven*** (wholly without evidence: at least, Jesus had an empty tomb and witnesses!)

B. Is Peter "This Rock," the Foundation of the Church of Christ

1. Matthew 16:13-20:

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 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. 19 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." 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

2. Jesus had said to "Simon Peter" **John 1:40**, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas (which is translated, A Stone [petros])" **John 1:42**

a) Why did not Jesus give Peter the name "**Petra**" (feminine) in this passage, to relieve any confusion later?

b) **Jesus, not Peter, is referred to as petra in the New Testament:**

Matthew 16:18: "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."

Romans 9:33: "As it is written: 'Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.'" (quoting from **Isaiah 8:14; 28:16**)

1 Corinthians 10:4: "For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."

1 Peter 2:8: "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.' They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed."

c) There is NO original Aramaic manuscript of Matthew known.

(1) If Matthew wrote it in Aramaic, God preserved a majority of Greek MSS;

(2) Matthew himself, guided by the Holy Spirit, would have translated his book into Greek, for Greek was understood by most people then;

(3) The only "Aramaism" preserved in this passage would be "**Cephas**," but because the Greek word makes a distinction between Peter's name and the foundation of the church, no appeal to the "Aramaic" would justify making Peter's name equal to the foundation of the church of Christ!

(4) As there are no original MSS of any other New Testament Books, either!

d) Paul condemned as a "schism" any who followed Peter, not Jesus, as the authorizer of baptism or head of the church.

1 Corinthians 1:12-13

e) **When Jesus said to Peter "Follow Me" John 21:19**, the **Roman Catholic Church** says it is teaching Peter's Primacy. But **when Jesus tells Philip "Follow Me" John 1:43 NO ONE** suggests the Roman Church is built upon Philip!!

3. *IF this clearly taught Peter's Superiority over all the other Apostles, then:*

a) Why were they still disputing the issue later? **Matthew 20:20-28**

b) How were James, Cephas & John **all** "pillars?" **Galatians 2:9**

c) Then was Paul the Gentile "Pope?" **Galatians 2:7-10**

d) How was the church of Christ "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone?" **Ephesians 2:20**

4. *Peter IS IN the foundation, but IS NOT "THE Foundation!"*

a) The Church of Christ is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone"

Ephesians 2:20

b) **NOTHING IN SCRIPTURE separates Peter from the other apostles in their work of establishing the church of Christ.**

2 Corinthians 11:5: "For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles."

1 Corinthians 9:5: "Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?"

c) Peter was never acknowledged as being in Rome, or its "Bishop!"

(1) Paul was prisoner in Rome and wrote **Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 2 Timothy, Philemon**, but NEVER MENTIONED PETER AS BEING IN ROME!

(2) Paul wrote **Romans** and saluted 27 Christians, but NOT Peter!

(3) **Peter wrote 2 letters, but never mentioned being in Rome!**

C. Does The Holy Spirit Protect Doctrine, but NOT Morals?

1. The RCC claims that the "Pope" may be immoral but infallible!

a) **Doctrine of Penance**, p. 957; Council of Trent, Canon 3, D 913; Canon 10, D 920.

As a man the Pope may be immoral, heretical, or an infidel; as Pope, when speaking ex cathedra, he is the organ of the Holy Ghost (Systematic Theology, I, ss 112).

b) Why, then, did the Spirit leave King Saul?

But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

1 Samuel 16:14

c) WHERE WERE ANY OF THE APOSTLES: "IMMORAL, HERETICAL, OR AN INFIDEL?" They condemned such behavior as:

2 Timothy 3:5 ... Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

How Dare ANYONE Claim to be The "Vicar of Christ" (a.k.a. "Vicarius Christi") - "one who acts in place of another" - and father bastards, prostitute nuns, sexually abuse boys and girls, and teach/ practice idolatry!!!

2. **RCC "Magisterium" hasn't figured this out, yet.**

a) **Chart:** According to Sungenis, the Magisterium of the Church must:

(1) Accept the need for specific teaching on a subject;

(2) Gather all possible information from—

(a) the principles developed in Scripture

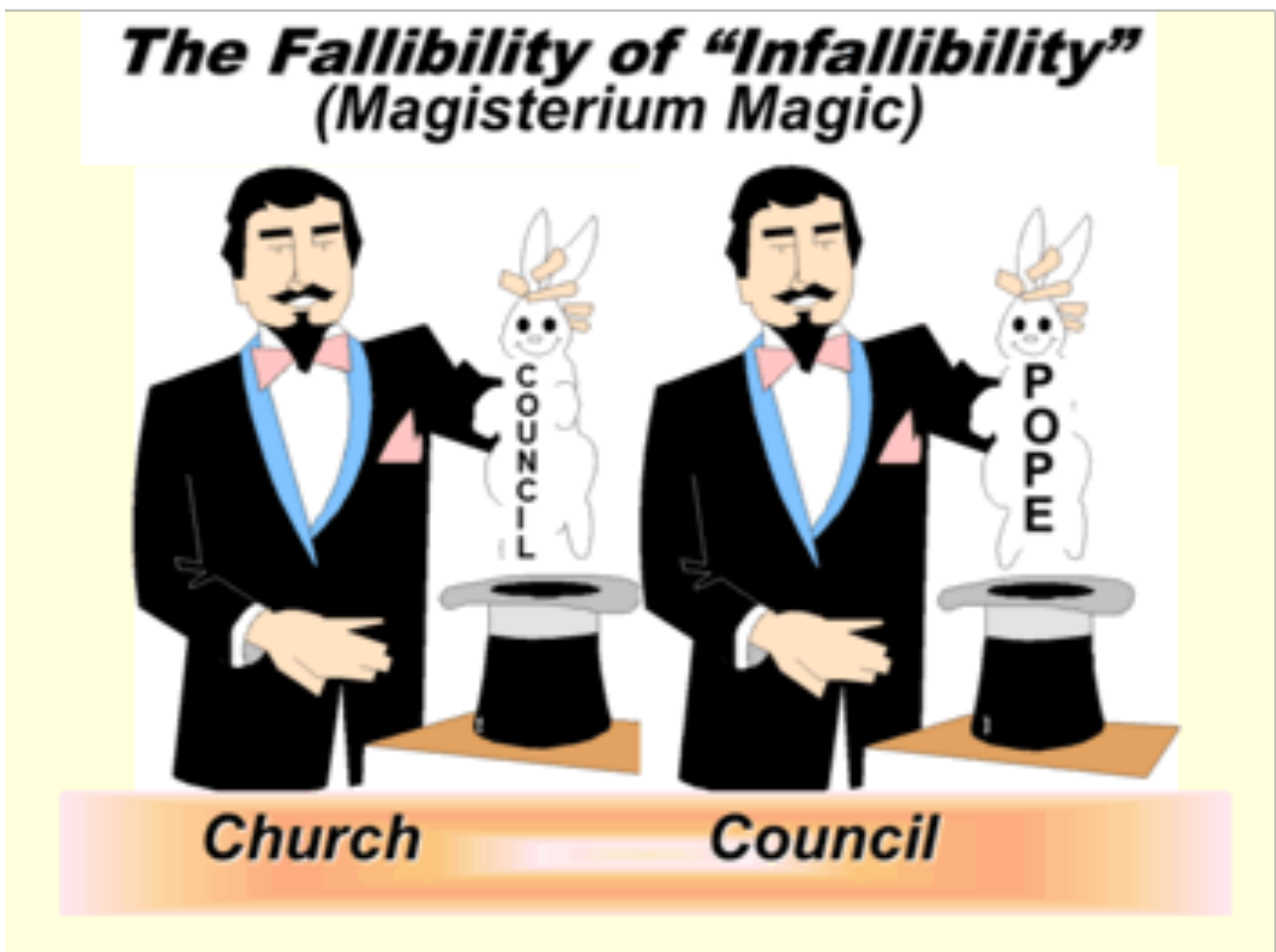
(b) the witness of Traditional teaching

(c) any other pertinent information

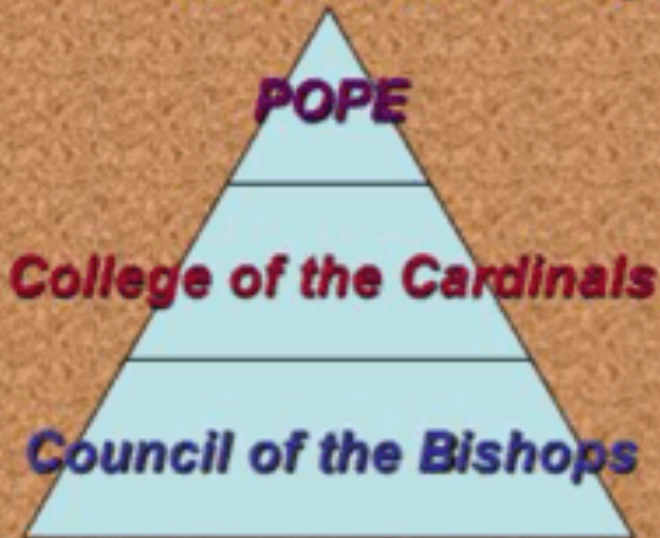
(3) Make a “God-glorifying” decision for God’s people to live by.

Unless the answer is absolutely correct, Christianity is no better than the best guesses and vacillating opinions of the world that surrounds it. - P. 210, **Not by Scripture Alone**, Robert A. Sungenis

Scripture cannot contradict itself. Since both the 1st century Christian and the 21st century Christian cannot extract differing interpretations from the same verse, thus, whatever was true about Scripture then must also be true today. - **Magisterium** (footnote 26, p. 128, **Not by Scripture Alone**, Chapter 3: “Does Scripture Teach Sola Scriptura?”) Robert A. Sungenis



Does Robert Sungenis Fit Into The Magisterium?



Robert
Sungenis
"#1 Roman
Catholic
Apologist"

D. RCC says "The Rock" in **Matthew 16:18** has referred to:

1. ***Peter, himself.***

a) **17 Fathers & Theologians incl:** Origen, Tertullian, Cyprian, Hilary, Ambrosius, Jerome, Augustine, Cyril, Basil, Epiphanius, Gregory, Theophylact.

b) **Pope:** Leo the First

c) **Council:** Trent- Fontidinius and Cardillus expressed w/o contradiction-

2. ***The Apostles***

a) **6 Fathers:** Origen, Theodoret, Tarasius, Etherius, Theophylact, Pascasius

- b) **Saints:** Cyprian, Jerome, Hilary, Cyril, Ambrosius, Chrysostom, Augustine
- c) **Councils:** Constance, Basil both w/o contradiction

3. ***Peter's Faith/ Confession***

- a) **44 Fathers incl:** Eusebius, Beda, Theodoret, Damascen, Theophylact, Odo, Ragusa, Alphonsus, Pole, Jonas, Eckius, Erasmus
- b) **Saints incl:** Hilary, Ambrosius, Gregory, Chrysostom, Cyril, Augustine, Aquinas
- c) **Popes:** Leo, Felix, Hormisdas, Gregory, Nicholas, John, Stephen, Innocent, Urban, Alexander, and 2 Hadrians
- d) **Councils:** Nicea, Constantinople, Constance, Basil, Lateran (given "infallibility")

4. ***Christ, Himself***

- a) **16 Fathers and Doctors incl:** Origen, Eusebius, Theodoret, Beda, Paulinus, Dungal, Etherius, Raban, Tarasius, Anselm, Theophylact, Lombard, Ragusa, Lyra, Pole, Vatablus
- b) **Saints:** Cyprian, Cyril, Jerome, Augustine, Aquinas
- c) **Popes:** Celestine, Innocent, Pius, Alexander, Hadrian, Nicholas, Leo
- d) **General Councils:** Nicea, Constantinople, Basil, Trent (given "infallibility")

E. **RCC Authority for the Pope**

1. ***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. **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, *Lateran* (5th) - gave Leo equal power with the councils; *Trent* (14th) - "supreme power in the universal church"; *Cardillus* - 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. **Equal With God**

- a) "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**)
 - (1)**Popes:** Gregory, Nicholas, Innocent
 - (2)**Councils:** *Lateran, Trent* - The pope "has the power of dispensing with all laws, and the same authority as the Lord." (Lainez)

4. **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."

F. **Peter & "Binding & Loosing"**

Matthew 16:19 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.

1. The "Keys" – symbol of authority

- a) Authority limited to Jesus (Revelation 3:7) and the Holy Spirit's control (Acts 2:1-4), first used for opening the kingdom of Christ to the Jews on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14-40, 42-43), and later to the Gentiles (Acts 10:34-43; 11:12, 18)
- b) Figure of speech from Isaiah 22:22: "The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open."

2. The Authority (?) – "Binding and Loosing"

- a) Jesus gave ALL the Apostles the same:

Matthew 18:18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 19:28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

John 20:20-23 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 "Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."

- b) **When did they ALL "bind and loose"? On Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4**
- c) **What did they "bind and loose"? They bound "the Gospel of Christ" to loose people from their sins Acts 2:22-38**

3. The Language

- a) **The Apostles would not decide doctrine which was then accepted by God, but the other way around!**

Matthew 10:19-20

- b) **The Apostles could only preach what God gave them:**

Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

- c) **Primacy of Peter John 21:15-17:**

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." 16 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." 17 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."

Jesus asked about Peter's	agapao	agapao	then fileo.
			friend love Matt. 10:37
Jesus commanded Peter	bosko	poimain	boske
	Feed Lk. 15:15	tend Ax 20:28	feed
Jesus was concerned about	arnia	probatia	probatia
	A little lamb	little sheep	sheep

d) The Elders in Ephesus were to:

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. **Acts 20:28**

(1) Does this make them "Universal Bishops?"

(2) PETER did not think this distinguished him from any other elders:

1 Peter 5:1-2 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: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly.

(3) The Presbyters/ Overseers had qualifications that would disqualify RCC hierarchy **1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9**

G. Peter's [?] Council in Jerusalem

Acts 15:1-31 And **certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren**, "Unless you are **circumcised according to the custom of Moses**, you cannot be saved." 2 Therefore, when **Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension** and dispute with them, they determined that **Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.**

3 So, being **sent on their way by the church**, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, **describing the conversion of the Gentiles**; and they caused great joy to all the brethren. 4 And when they had **come to Jerusalem**, they were **received by the church and the apostles and the elders**; and they reported all things that God had done with them. 5 But **some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed** rose up, **saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses."**

6 Now the **apostles and elders came together** to consider this matter. 7 And when there had been much dispute, **Peter rose up and said** to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good

while ago God chose among us, that **by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8** So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, **9** and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. **10** Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? **11** But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.” [Acts 10-11] **12 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. [Acts 13- 14] **13** And after they had become silent, **James answered**, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: **14** Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. **15** And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: **16** 'After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; **17** So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.' [Amos 9:11-12] **18** Known to God from eternity are all His works. **19 Therefore I judge** [*krino*] that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, **20** but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. **21** For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

22 Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, **namely, Judas** who was also named Barsabas, **and Silas**, leading men among the brethren.

23 They wrote this letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. **24** Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words,

unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law" — **to whom we gave no such commandment--**
25 it **seemed good to us**, being **assembled with one accord**,
to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,
26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ. **27** We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also
report the same things by word of mouth. **28** For **it seemed**
good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater
burden than **these necessary things: 29** that you **abstain from**
[1] things offered to idols, **[2]** from blood, **[3]** from things
strangled, and **[4]** from sexual immorality. **If you keep**
yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

30 So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when
they had gathered the multitude together, **they delivered the**
letter. 31 **When they had read it, they rejoiced over its**
encouragement.

1. **There was NO appeal to Peter, but to "apostles, elders" and the "whole church" Acts 15:2, 4, 6, 12** ("all the multitude"), **22**
2. **The letter delivered to Gentile Christians was "dogma."**
Acts 16:4 CHART:

Bible "Dogma"

(Greek, dogma—"an opinion, a judgment,
doctrines, decree, ordinance")

1. of public decrees
Luke 2:1; Acts 17:7; Hebrews 11:23
2. of the rules and requirements of the law of Moses
Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14
3. of certain decrees of the apostles about living right
Acts 16:4- "And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem."

Refer to Acts 15 and notice that:

- A. The church didn't wait hundreds of years to know "dogma."**
- B. There was an epistle of Scripture from the Apostles' "Magisterium."**
- C. "So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily." Acts 16:5**

3. EVERY speaker proclaimed only the Word of God (Oral & Written)
 - a) **15:2-4: Paul and Barnabas** proclaimed **what God had been doing** among Gentiles **Acts 13-14** (unwritten N.T.);
 - b) **15:5-11: Peter** reminded them of the events of **Acts 10-11** in **selecting Gentiles to be saved** (unwritten N.T.);
 - c) **15:12-21: James** preached God's Prophecy about the goal of bringing in Gentiles **Amos 9:11-12** THEN gave HIS "judgment";
 - d) **15:22: THE CONCLUSION WAS INSPIRED ENTIRELY BY GOD'S WORD (a.k.a. "SCRIPTURE"), AND IT WAS UNANIMOUS – LIKE NO RCC COUNCIL!!!!**
 - e) **15:23-31: The "DOGMA" was necessary and delivered immediately to Gentiles!!!!**

4. THERE WAS NO VOTE TAKEN, NOR SUCCESSIVE SESSIONS OF THIS COUNCIL!

5. There was NO: supremacy of Peter, voting on doctrine, waiting hundreds of years to deal with controversy, multiple sessions to arrive at a conclusion, opposition to the views expressed, PRESENTATION OF ANY OUTSIDE "TRADITION," "COMMENTARIES," OR PREVIOUS "COUNCIL" CONCLUSIONS, BUT ONLY SCRIPTURE (BOTH WRITTEN & UNWRITTEN)!

6. This was the ONLY council gathering like it in Scripture.

- a) **The gathering to replace Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:13-26)** did nothing to replace James the brother of John when Herod killed him (**Acts 12:1-2**);
- b) **The gathering to disprove Jewish heretics** sent Gentiles their "dogma" (**Acts 15:1-31**) and never met again!

CHART:

"Doctrine" Was To Remain Unchanged
2Thessalonians 2:1-2

1 Now, brethren, concerning
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,
2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled,
either by spirit --- **1 Corinthians 14:37:**

**"spiritual, let him acknowledge that the
things which I write to you are
the commandments of the Lord."**

or by word --- **1 Corinthians 15:2:** "by which
also you are saved, if you **hold fast
that word which I preached to you"**

or by letter, --- **1 Corinthians 5:9:**

**"I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep
company with sexually immoral people."**

as if from us, --- **1 Corinthians 4:9** "God has
displayed **us, the apostles, last,**
as though the day of Christ **had come.**

**"TRADITIONS" WERE NOT TO BE
CHANGED**

2 Thessalonians 2:15:

Therefore, brethren,
stand fast (Gk. *sta'ko*) \ UNCHANGED
and hold (Gk. *krate'o*) /

the traditions --- **1 Corinthians 11:2:** "keep the
traditions just as I delivered them to you."

(Gk. *para'dosis*-what is given over,
whether by mouth or writing)

which you were taught, --- **Colossians 2:7:**
(Gk. *edidach'thate*) established in the faith,
as you have been taught,"

whether by word (Gk. *lo'gos*) --- **Acts 15:27**
"by word of mouth."

or our epistle. (Gk. *epis'tole*) --- **2 Thessalonians**
3:14 "not obey our word **in this epistle"**