

## **Papal Primacy**

Compare **Matthew 16:13-19** with **Isaiah 22:19-22**.

**Papacy:** The supreme jurisdiction and ministry of the Pope as shepherd of the whole Church. As successor of St. Peter, and therefore Bishop of Rome and Vicar of Christ, the Pope is the perpetual and visible principle of unity in faith and communion in the Church (CCC 882).

**Primacy (Pope):** The successor of St. Peter as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pontiff of the universal Catholic Church. The Pope exercises a primacy of authority as Vicar of Christ and shepherd of the whole Church; he receives the divine assistance promised by Christ to the Church when he defines infallibly a doctrine of faith or morals (CCC 880-882).

## **Church and Papal Infallibility**

**Infallibility:** The gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church whereby the pastors of the Church, the pope and bishops in union with him, can definitively proclaim a doctrine of faith or morals for the belief of the faithful (CCC 891). This gift is related to the inability of the whole body of the faithful to err in matters of faith and morals (CCC 92).

**Magisterium:** The living, teaching office of the Church, whose task it is to give as authentic interpretation of the word of God, whether in its written form (Sacred Scripture), or in the form of Tradition. The Magisterium ensures the Church's fidelity to the teaching of the Apostles in matters of faith and morals (CCC 85, 890, 2033).

## **Apostolic Succession**

**Apostolic Succession:** The handing on of apostolic preaching and authority from the Apostles to their successors the bishops through the laying on of hands, as a permanent office in the Church (CCC 77, 861).

## Papal Primacy and Apostolic Succession

Excerpt from

[http://www.transporter.com/Mormonism/smc\\_close.html](http://www.transporter.com/Mormonism/smc_close.html)

Jesus Christ intended for His Church to continue teaching the Gospel with His authority until the end of time. Jesus is like the wise man who built His house (the Church) on a rock (Peter), "...it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock." ([Matthew 7:24-27](#)) He promised the gates of hell would not prevail against it when He said, "...you are Peter (Kepha - Rock), and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it." ([Matthew 16:18](#)) In [Matthew 18:15-18](#) Jesus commands His followers to take disputes involving religious matters to the Church for resolution. He would not instruct us to do such a thing if He knew that the Church would soon fall into total apostasy and become corrupted. The Church must, out of necessity, always exist in order for Jesus to give such a command. [Matthew 28:19-20](#) provides the undeniable statement from Jesus that He would be with His Church until the end of time. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." It is impossible for the Church to apostatize and become doctrinally corrupt, for Jesus promised He would always remain in His Church. Lastly, St. Paul tells us that the Church is the pillar and ground (bulwark or foundation) of the truth. ([1 Timothy 3:15](#)) These are very strong words used to indicate strength, stability, and permanence. In order to be the pillar and foundation Paul speaks of, the Church must be a permanent teacher of truth, not a temporary household built upon sand only to be rebuilt later.

The Twelve Apostles chose others to be bishops (Greek meaning "an overseer"). These bishops were appointed by the Apostles to continue their mission from Christ. The bishop has the authority and power of Christ to administer all the sacraments, including ordination of other men to the priesthood. Apostolic succession was first demonstrated in [Acts 1:20-26](#) when Matthias was chosen to replace Judas. Every validly ordained bishop in the Catholic Church can trace his priesthood authority back through history to one of the Twelve Apostles. This authority has been passed on in an unbroken chain of ordinations by the laying-on of hands from the Apostles to their successors, the bishops, and to their successors, other bishops, and so on down the line throughout all of Catholic Christian history. The bishops of the Catholic Church are the successors to the Apostles in a continuous line of apostolic succession. The Catholic Church has existed continuously since the time of the Apostles, and it was founded as an earthly organization upon Peter, the rock.

## **The Pope**

Extracted from

<http://www.transporter.com/FatherPeffley/Apologetics/bible.html>

Revelation is made up of Sacred Scripture (written word of God) and Sacred Tradition (spoken word of God). It needs a reliable and authoritative interpreter, one free from error (infallible). The Pope is the infallible interpreter of revelation. The Pope is only infallible in matters of faith and morals when he clearly defines something as Chief shepherd of the Catholic Church. He does not make new revelation, but clarifies the original revelation of Christ and the Apostles. The Pope is not impeccable or incapable of sinning. Belief in infallibility is inescapable, it is not an option. We either believe the Pope, ourselves, or someone else to be the infallible (reliable) guide to scripture. We must trust in someone's interpretation of scripture. Catholics trust the Pope because he was appointed by Christ. "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." (Mt.16:17-19) "I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail." (Lk. 22:31,32). Christ named him Peter "Cephas", which in Hebrew means "foundation stone". The Greek rendition does not convey its full Hebrew meaning. "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven." (Mt.16:19) The "keys" symbolize authority (Is. 22:15-25, Rv.1:18). Thus, the Pope has authority. Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd" (Jn.10:14) and to Peter "Feed my sheep" (Jn.21:15-17) which means "teach my Church." He appoints Peter as chief shepherd of His church. Christ is the invisible head of the Church, the Pope is the visible head. Christ appointed St. Peter to lead in His place, which is clear from scripture. Through His mystical body, the Church, Christ continues to appoint the leader of His Church, the successors of St. Peter. Scripture shows the first dispute over doctrine was settled by a Church council (Acts 15) presided over by the first Pope, Peter, who spoke first (Acts 15:7). This is the scriptural model for settling disputes over doctrine. Peter is listed first in every list of Apostles (Mt. 10:1-4, Mk. 3:16-19, Lk. 6:12-16, Acts 1:13), first to work a miracle in His name (Acts 3:6-7), and first to proclaim the gospel (Acts 2:14-40).

## **Biblical References for Papal Primacy:**

Mt 16:18-19 – Primacy of Peter

Lk 22:32 – Peter’s faith will strengthen his brethren

Jn 21:17 – Peter is given Christ’s flock as chief shepherd

Acts 1:13-26 – Peter headed meeting which elected Matthias

Acts 2:14 – Peter led Apostles in preaching on Pentecost

Acts 2:41 – Peter received the first converts

Acts 3:6-7 – Peter performed first miracle after Pentecost

Acts 5:1-11 – Peter inflicted first punishment: Ananias & Saphira

Acts 8:21 – Peter excommunicated first heretic, Simon Magnus

Acts 10:44-46 – Peter received revelation to admit Gentiles into church

Acts 15:7 – Peter led first council in Jerusalem

Acts 15:19 – Peter pronounces first dogmatic decision

Gal 1:18 – after conversion, Paul visits the chief Apostle

Mt 10:1-4; Mk 3:16-19; Lk 6:14-16; Acts 1:13 – Peter’s name always heads list of Apostles

Lk 9:32; Mk 16:7 – “Peter and his companions”

Mt 18:21; Mk 8:29; Lk 8:45, 12:41; Jn 6:69 – Peter spoke for the Apostles

Peter’s name occurs 195 times, more than all the rest of the Apostles put together.

*Of the 265 Popes from St. Peter to Benedict XVI, 78 are venerated as Saints, 7 as Blessed; 33 were martyred; 105 have been Romans, 110 natives of other parts of Italy; 15 were French, 9 Greek, 7 German, 5 Asiatic, 3 African, 3 Spanish, 2 Dalmatian, 1 Hebrew, 1 Thracian, 1 Dutchman, 1 Portugese, 1 Candiot, 1 English, 1 Polish.*

*This distinguished list of holy and saintly men links the Church with Christ, and constitute the title and deed of the Catholic Church...the ONE TRUE CHURCH of Jesus Christ on Earth.*