

In Matthew chapter 16 we see this confession of faith by Peter, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Matthew 16:16. And Jesus told Peter that it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to Peter but God the Father did!

And then the controversy as Jesus tells Peter, **"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.

Let's first look at this word "church" because this is the first time we see this in the New Testament. It is the Greek word EKKLESIA, (ek-klay-see'-ah) and it speaks of "calling out" and thus, Jesus has called out His Church from this world, to be separated unto Him. I don't think any of us have a problem here.

The tricky part comes regarding who the Church is built upon. The Roman Catholic Church believes that the Church is built upon Peter. The Scriptures clearly teach that the Church is built upon the proclamation made by Peter, **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** You see, the church is built upon Jesus Christ and the fact that He is almighty God, He builds the Church, there is no man who can build His Church and I will show you why I believe this to be true.

First of all the name "Peter" in the Greek is PETROS or a small stone. The Greek word for "Rock" is PETRA or a massive stone! The Church is not to be built upon a small stone; like I have said, no man can build His Church. The Church is to be built upon the **ROCK**, upon Jesus Christ! Do we really need a church to be built upon a man, the world is filled with that and look at how that is working out!

I do realize that may not be enough for you so let me share a few more things. Who is Jesus speaking to? His disciples and they are Jewish, keep that in mind. As you look throughout the Scriptures, when the word "**rock**" is used in a figurative sense, it is never used of man; it is always speaking of God! That is important. Jesus does not change that here. Thus, what Jesus is saying is that,

"Upon God Himself – upon Jesus, the Son of the Living God – I will build my Church."

Now for those that think that Peter started the church and he was the first Pope, that is not what the Scriptures teach. Peter never spoke of himself as the foundation of the Church, the rock that the Church was built upon. In Acts 4:11-12 we are told, **"This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."** Peter did not call himself this supporting stone but he is speaking of Jesus!

Also, in I Peter 2:4-8 Peter states this fact once again, **"Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, 'Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.' Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,' and 'A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.' They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed."**

If Peter it was this "living stone" then there is a big problem because we are then all Popes because Peter said that we are all "living stones"! Peter is not saying that the church is built upon him or any other man. The Church is built upon Jesus, the "chief cornerstone", the "rock." I hope that is clear, it needs to be or you will end up worshipping a man instead of the Living God!

Search the Scriptures for yourself and not the words of man. God's Word is truth and it will set you free from the lies that are out there. Please contact me, Pastor Joe at Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc if you have any questions.

As you search the Scriptures God will reveal Himself to you. May you come to know Him as Lord and Savior of your life as you repent of your sins and ask Him into your life. As you do all your sins are cast as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more. It is finished, the work has been completed by Jesus! (Ephesians 2:8-9)



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What the Bible says about . . . Catholics Believing Their First Pope?

This is taken from what Mike Gendron put together in a e-mail he sent out and all I ask you to do is compare the words and works of Peter and see if this Pope as well as the past Pope's have followed Peter or their own ways. Let's see what the Scriptures have to say.

Catholics Should Believe Their First Pope

The apostle Peter played a prominent role in the early church. Soon after he abandoned his career as a fisherman to follow Christ, he became a fisher of men. Several of his sermons were recorded in the Book of Acts, and his two epistles are included in the divinely inspired Scriptures.

Since Catholics have been taught that Peter was their first pope, I have developed some questions to shed some light on his theology, ecclesiology, and soteriology.

All of the answers come directly from his writings and sermons. . . .

Peter, were you the first pope and the supreme head of the first century church?

"As a fellow elder, I exhort the elders among you... to shepherd the flock of God." (1 Peter 5:1-3)

Are you the rock upon which Jesus would build His church?

Jesus is “a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God, chosen and precious... The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense. They stumble because they disobey the word.” (1 Peter 2:4,7-8)

Were you infallible?

Paul opposed me to my face because I was not in step with the truth of the Gospel. (Galatians 2:11,14)

Should we confess our sins to priests?

Repent of your wickedness and pray to God that your sins may be forgiven. (Acts 8:22)

Should we pray to Mary and the saints?

Pray to God. (Acts 8:22)

Can anyone be saved apart from the Lord Jesus Christ?

“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

What would you say to Pope Francis who teaches that atheists can follow their conscience into heaven?

“There will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.”
“The ignorant and unstable twist Paul’s letters to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.” (2 Peter 2:1; 3:16)

Can anyone be certain that they have inherited eternal life?

God has caused believers to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven and protected by the power of God through faith. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Is it possible for God’s grace or indulgences to be purchased for the remission of sins?

God ransoms us “not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Can a person be born again through water baptism?

The only way to be regenerated is to be “born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.” (1 Peter 1:23)

Should Jesus Christ be made a sin offering during the sacrifice of the Mass?

Christ suffered “once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit” (1 Peter 3:18).

Is the Catholic priesthood necessary to mediate between God and man?

Every believer, who is called out of darkness into Christ’s marvelous light, is made a priest for the purpose of offering spiritual sacrifices to God and proclaiming His perfections (1 Peter 2:9).

Should Jesus continue to be pictured as a dead man hanging on a cross or as a baby in Mary’s arms?

The resurrected Christ has “gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.” (1 Peter 3:21-22)

What should we do in these days of great deception?

Take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:17-18)

There is a profound contrast between the divinely inspired teachings of Peter and the fallible, ungodly opinions of Pope Francis. The enormous disparity between the instruction of these two men Catholics call “pope” shows how far the Roman Catholic Church has departed from the faith of the apostles. May God give us all a greater compassion for the many victims of religious deception.

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