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Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)  
Church of Christ: 4th Ave. South Shore, Ky. P.O. Box 649 3/4/1973  
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### WAS PETER THE FIRST POPE?

"Now, therefore, we declare, say, determine and pronounce that for every human creature it is necessary for salvation to be subject to the authority of the Roman Pontiff." (Cath. Ency. Vol. XV, p. 126)

"But the supreme teacher in the Church is the Roman Pontiff. Union of minds, therefore, require together with a perfect accord in the one faith, complete submission and obedience of will to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff as to God Himself." (Great Encyclical Letters, p. 304)

"The dogmatic definition contained in the Bull is the doctrine necessarily held by every Catholic, namely that by divine law all men are subject to the jurisdiction of St. Peter and his successors the Roman Pontiffs." (Short History Of The Catholic Church, p. 102-103)

The Catholic teaching concerning Peter is based upon 3 assumptions, neither of which can be proved by the Bible. They are: First: Peter was a Pope. Second: That he was to have successors. Third: That the Bishops of Rome were to be his successors.

#### IF PETER WERE POPE...

##### I. Jesus Didn't Know It

1. First person He called "Satan" after alledgly making him pope. Mark 8:33
2. No one apostle to have total authority Matt. 20:25-27
3. Apostles to sit on 12 thrones Matt. 19:28
4. Prophesied to fall Lk. 22:32
5. "...call no man on earth your father.." Matt. 23:9
6. He has ALL authority BOTH in heaven AND on earth Matt. 28:17

##### II. Apostles Didn't Know It

1. Some ask for prominent positions in the Kingdom after Christ had supposedly given it to Peter. Mk. 10:35-40, Matt. 20:20
2. Some rebuked Peter for eating with the Gentiles Acts 11:1-3
3. They never referred to him as "pope" or as having more authority than themselves
4. Failed to mention the office of "pope" I Cor. 12:28, Eph. 4:11
5. They disputed who should be greatest after Matt. 16:18 see Luke 22:24

#### A WOMAN POPE?

"In the 14th & 15th centuries ~~this~~ this popess was already counted as an historical personage, whose existence no one doubted. She had her place among the carved busts which stood in the Siena Cathedral. Under Clement VIII (1592-1595) and at his request she was transformed into Pope Zacherias. The Heretic Huss in the defense of his false doctrine before the Council of Constance, referred to the popess and no one offered to question her existence. Since the 16th century Catholic writers began to deny the existence of the popess." (Cath. Ency. Vol. VIII, p. 408)

#### ORDER OF SERVICES

- |   |                                 |   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| * | Lord's Day: 10:00 a.m. Worship  | * |
| * | 7:00 p.m. Worship               | * |
| * | Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study | * |

"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained." (I Tim. 4:6)

#### "GOD BLESS YOU"

"In his (Pelagius II) time there appeared an extraordinary plague, as sudden as it was violent. The patient frequently died while in the act of sneezing or yawning." (General History Of Catholic Church, De Montor, p. 135)

While this plague was raging, before he himself was smitten by it, Pelagius ordered the people to make this exclamation, but it did not seem to help much--he succumbed to it also.

"Buy the truth and sell it not" proverbs 23:23

#### ~~WHAT IS PRIMACY~~

1. Denied Christ Matt. 26:74
2. Cursed & swore Mark 14:71
3. Tried to put himself above Scripture Matt. 26:31-33

#### IV. Paul Didn't Know It

1. Recognized Christ as the head of the Church Eph. 1:22,23
2. Rebuked Peter as He was in sin Gal. 2:11-21
3. Never called him a pope
4. Claimed Peter was an apostle to the Jews Gal. 2:7,8
5. Said he was "not a whit behind the very chiefest apostle." II Cor. 11:5
6. Claimed "foundation" & "rock" was Christ I Cor. 3:11; 10:4

#### V. Peter Didn't Know It

1. Called himself "fellow-elder" and "fellow-servant" I Pet. 1:1 I Pet. 5:1
2. Refused worship Acts 10:25-26
3. Claimed no power to forgive sins Acts 8:22
4. Exalts Christ as the chief shepherd I Pet. 2:25
5. Applies Is. 28:16 to Christ and not himself I Pet. 2:5-7
6. Was humble and never claimed authority over church I Pet. 5:3

#### VI. Church Didn't Know It

1. "Sent" Peter Acts 8:14
2. Peter not asked to answer the circumcision or marriage problems Acts 15:13-22
3. See also Acts 1:23; 6:2

PROMINENCE DOESN'T PROVE PRIMACY: That his name is often mentioned first, and that he was prominent among the apostles is not denied. (Matt. 10:2, Mk. 3:16) However, these facts by no means prove that he held an office over the others. Note below:

- (a) His name is not always first. Andrew was called first and then he found Peter. Jn. 1:41
- (b) James, not Peter, was more prominent in the Jerusalem conference. Acts 15:14-23
- (c) James, not Peter, is mentioned first in Gal. 2:9.
- (d) He could have been prominent because of age, temperament, and ability to lead and still have no more authority than the others

#### THE CHIEF SHEPHERD FROM JOHN 21:15-17?

This is an assumption without proof. The work of feeding the sheep was not peculiar to Peter. (Matt. 28:19-20, Mk. 16:15-16) He who is of God listens to the apostles--all of them. (I Jn. 4:4-6) Furthermore, Paul told the Ephesian elders to feed the church of God and Peter himself exhorted other elders to "tend the flock of God" (Acts 20:28, I Pet. 5:2) Now when these elders fed the flock did they become popes?

We are fed by Peter as we receive the word of God revealed through him. (I Pet. 1:10-12, 22-25, 2:2) Other writers left more for us to feed on than did Peter. At no time did he feed anyone with the doctrine that he was a pope now did he?

#### AND PETER AT ROME

Catholics assert that Peter wrote his first epistle from Rome but figuratively referred to it as Babylon (I Pet. 5:13) There is no reason for assuming Babylon here is Rome. Note:

Peter was not there when Paul wrote Romans. (1:7) In the last chapter he sent greetings to 26 members of the Church but does not mention Peter. If Peter were the Bishop of Rome it is unthinkable that Paul would ignore him. Paul indicated that no apostle had visited them when he wrote, "For I long to see you that I may impart some spiritual grace unto you to strengthen you." (Rom. 1:11)--Note this was after he said that the Roman church's faith was known in all the world. (v. 8)

While a prisoner in Rome, Paul wrote Philemon, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and II Timothy. While a number of Christians are mentioned in these letters why did Paul forget Peter if he were there? If Peter were there he did not come to Paul's "support" but "forsook" him. (II Tim. 4:16)

Now since Paul was an apostle to the gentiles and Peter was an apostle to the Jews (Gal. 2:7,8) and since the Jews were banished from Rome (Acts 18) isn't it reasonable to assume that Peter was where he claimed to be ..in Babylon?

We Challenge You To Obey, Repent Or Show Us Our Error That We May Do So!