

Popes within the Roman Catholic Church

The Apostle Peter is considered to be the 1st Pope by the Roman Catholic Church by virtue of Matthew 16:13-20. Here they view Jesus establishing His Church on the *person* of Peter and every successive person who follow - until the current Pope, Pope Francis.

In view of Matthew 16, please note the Roman Catholic understanding does not follow with what Jesus said...

You are Peter and on this ROCK I will build My Church.

The ROCK that Jesus speaks of is *not* Peter... but it is his confession about Jesus as: ***the Christ, the Son of the living God.***

The Church is built on this Confession of faith!

The Christian Church has always had spiritual Leaders. Pastors and Teachers are identified in Scripture and some of these may assume responsibility over some or all. We have no problems with a head of a Church body [as in President Harrison] but of anyone who assumes power over the Scriptures to teach other ways.

In the Papacy... problems began to occur when they carried out the following:

- a) Making unbiblical decrees...
- b) Claiming to be infallible when speaking *ex cathedra* [from the chair]
- c) Claiming to have authority over governments...
- d) Showing favoritism in who served – because of money or family ties...

The basic false teaching established by the Popes within the Roman Catholic Church is...

- a) Salvation is found only through the Roman Catholic Church; by being a member.
- b) Salvation is by faith with the addition of works instead of by faith in Christ alone

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not of yourselves, it is a gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.

Pre-Reformers

John Wycliffe 1330-1384

- Emphasis on the Bible rather than Tradition.
- Opposed Papal Authority
- Died of natural causes but his remains were dug up and burned because he was considered a heretic.

Jon Hus 1369-1415

- Martyred in 1415
- Holy living was emphasized over confessions of faith.
- Wanted lay people (non-clergy) more involved

These men along with others set the foundation for what would take place in the time of Luther.

Reformers

Desiderius Erasmus 1460-1536



- Critical of the medieval church but did not leave the Roman Church
- Was also very critical of Luther
- Emphasized the original languages of the bible specifically Greek.

Martin Luther 1483-1546



- Considered to be the father of the reformation for all Protestants.

Philipp Melanchthon 1497-1560



- Luther's right hand man
- He was NOT ORDAINED
- The main author of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession.

Ulrich Zwingli 1484-1531



- Reformer in Switzerland
- Though a reformer He and Luther did not get along and held to some different positions.

John Calvin 1509-1564



- Reformer from France ending up in Switzerland
- Closer to Luther than Zwingli in his theology yet some very key differences remained.
- Worked with Melanchthon to try to bring the Reformed and the Lutherans together. This failed and got Melanchthon into trouble with the Lutherans.