

Peter exercised leadership, but not like a Pope. Acts 15:13-21 shows that \_\_\_\_\_ was the leader of this council, because he was the pastor of the local church at Jerusalem, where the council met.

## B. The Popes Are Not Peter's Successors

- 1) There is no historical or biblical evidence that Peter was ever bishop of the Roman church.
  - Peter was Apostle to Jews, not Romans (Gal.2:7-8)
  - Acts places Peter's labors in \_\_\_\_\_
  - Paul did not greet Peter at the end of \_\_\_\_\_
  - None of Paul's letters written from Rome mention Peter
  - Early church historians do not record that Peter was ever bishop of Rome
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ as practiced in the NT is NOT practiced by the RC Church

*"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands." (2 Tim. 1:6)*
- 3) History records that the Papacy was often not a matter of "apostolic succession," but rather the Pope was decided by \_\_\_\_\_

## THE PAPACY

**Constantine**—312 AD: Roman Emperor converted to Christianity. Insured the worldwide *influence* of the bishop of Rome

**Leo**--440-461AD: Extraordinary leader. Saved Rome from Attila the Hun. First to claim he was Peter's successor

**Gregory**--590-604 AD: Added to the power of the Bishop of Rome. Title *Papa* reserved for Roman bishop after his rule

**Pius IX**--1860s: Maneuvered bishops into approving Infallibility of Pope as official doctrine of Church

### I. THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DOCTRINE OF THE PAPACY

#### A. The Bishops

*"In order that the mission entrusted to them might be continued after their death, the apostles consigned, by will and testament, as it were, to their immediate collaborators the duty of completing and consolidating the work they had begun, urging them to tend to the whole flock, in which the Holy Spirit had appointed them to shepherd the Church of God. They accordingly designated such men and then made the ruling that likewise on their death other proven men should take over their ministry." CCC, 861*

*"Just as the office which the Lord confided to Peter alone, as first of the apostles, destined to be transmitted to his successors, is a permanent one, so also endures the office, which the apostles received, of shepherding the Church, a charge destined to be exercised without interruption by the sacred order of bishops. Hence the Church teaches that the bishops have by divine institution taken the place of the apostles as pastors of the Church, in such wise that whoever listens to them is listening to Christ." CCC, 862*

- 1) Teaching Power
- 2) Ruling Power
- 3) Sanctifying Power--sacraments & ordination

## B. The Pope

*"When Christ instituted the Twelve, he constituted [them] in the form of a college or permanent assembly, at the head of which he placed Peter, chosen from among them. Just as by the Lord's institution, St. Peter and the rest of the apostles constitute a single apostolic college, so in like fashion the Roman Pontiff, Peter's successor, and the bishops, the successors of the apostles, are related with and united to one another."* CCC, 880

*"The Lord made Simon alone, whom he named Peter, the 'rock' of his Church. He gave him the keys of his Church and instituted him shepherd of the whole flock. The office of binding and loosing which was given to Peter was also assigned to the college of apostles united to its head. The pastoral office of Peter and the other apostles belongs to the Church's very foundation and is continued by the bishops under the primacy of the Pope."* CCC, 881

*The Pope, Bishop of Rome and Peter's successor, is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the whole company of the faithful. For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered."* CCC, 882

*"The college or body of bishops has no authority unless united with the Roman Pontiff, Peter's successor, as its head. As such, this college has supreme and full authority over the universal Church; but this power cannot be exercised without the agreement of the Roman Pontiff."* CCC, 883

### **RC Doctrine: The Primacy of the Bishop of Rome**

- 1) Peter was the leader of the Apostles
- 2) Peter moved to Rome and became its first bishop.
- 3) From there, he ruled the Universal Church.
- 4) Whoever succeeds Peter has the same full authority.

## II. THE SCRIPTURAL RESPONSE TO THE PAPACY

A. Peter Did Not Have \_\_\_\_\_ over the Other Apostles and the Church

- 1) *"And I also say unto you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)*

*Peter was the \_\_\_\_\_, not the authority.*

- 2) *"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." (Matthew 16:19)*

- Peter never exercised supreme authority; rather he opened the church to Jews and Gentiles
- Same authority was given to \_\_\_\_\_
- Context in Matt.18:18 deals with \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) *"He said to him a second time, '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, 'Tend My sheep.'" (John 21:16)*

*"The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ... shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by constraint but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away." (1 Pt. 5:1-4)*

- 4) *"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..." (Acts 15:7)*