

BASIC CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS: DEFENDING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Part IV: Answering Roman Catholics Effectively On Our Faith

(1 and 2 Peter; Acts 15:1-11 et al.)

I. Introduction

- A. Many of us have found ourselves defending our faith before associates hailing from the Catholic Church.
- B. To be persuasive in such times, we cite the respected words of the **alleged** first "pope," Peter, as follows:

II. Answering Roman Catholics Effectively On Our Faith, 1 and 2 Peter, Acts 15:1-11 et al.

- A. The Catholic Church teaches that Matthew 16:13-19 presents Jesus conferring on Peter, the alleged **first** pope, the keys of Christ's Kingdom, cf. Cardinal Gibbons, Faith of our Fathers, p. 95. As such, every pope since him is "the **universal ruler of truth** . . . the supreme judge of heaven and earth . . . **God himself on earth.**" (New York Catechism, cited by Boettner, Roman Catholicism, p. 127).
- B. Hence, we check the **words** of the **first alleged** pope, Peter as they apply to the Catholic Church's beliefs:
 - 1. The Apostle Peter's words on Roman Catholic Church Tradition and Scripture
 - a. Catholicism holds the basis of authority is Scripture **plus** traditions, the Apocrypha, extra-canonical New Testament writings, papal decrees, church councils, etc., Boettner, *Ibid.*, p. 75-76.
 - b. Yet, **Peter** said in 1 Peter 1:18 man's tradition was **vain** while holding **only** the Bible as the source of God's truth to be believed to be "born again" **and also to grow** in 1 Peter 1:23 and 2:2.
 - 2. The Apostle Peter's words on the Roman Catholic Church's Papacy
 - a. Catholicism teaches Jesus conferred on Peter the alleged first pope such authority that "the pope has supreme and full power . . . over each and every pastor and his flock . . ." (New York Catechism)
 - b. However, Peter condemned church leaders lording over God's flock in 1 Peter 5:1-3 and **accepted** Paul's **public rebuke** against **himself** in Galatians 2:11-14 according to 2 Peter 3:15-16. As for Matthew 16:13-19, God used Peter to open the doors for Jews in Acts 2 and for Gentiles in Acts 10!
 - 3. The Apostle Peter's words on the Roman Catholic Church's dogma on Mary
 - a. Catholicism exalts Mary, teaching: "Mary is called . . . the gate of heaven because no one can enter that blessed kingdom without passing through **HER**," The Glories of Mary, Redemptorist Fathers (1933) as authored by "**Saint**" Alphonse de Liguori, p. 160.
 - b. Yet, Peter claims in 2 Peter 1:1-11 that everything we need for life and godliness is given us in **Christ** (v. 2-3), and that in **Him** we have "a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (v. 3-11). Mary is **not** needed for one to enter heaven according to Peter!
 - 4. The Apostle Peter's words on the Sacraments and Salvation in the Roman Catholic Church
 - a. Catholicism teaches that baptism, confirmation, the mass, penance and extreme unction in Catholicism **with** faith in Christ are necessary for salvation, *Ibid.*, Boettner, p. 189.
 - b. However, Peter claimed at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:1-2, 6-11) that believers are saved by faith through grace in the **context** of **opposing** any **additional** work like **circumcision!**
 - 5. The Apostle Peter's words on the Roman Catholic Church's beliefs on Purgatory and Limbo
 - a. Catholicism teaches all unbaptized adults or imperfect believers at death go to purgatory for penal and purifying suffering before entering heaven, Boettner, *Ibid.*, p. 218. All infants not baptized who die go to "limbo" to be excluded from heaven but suffer no punishment, *Ibid.*, p. 190.
 - b. However, Peter in 1 Peter 1:3-5 taught his readers were assured of heaven as being kept by God's power through faith, not by sustaining good works! As for "limbo", Peter exalted the Old Testament Scriptures in 2 Peter 1:20-21, and 2 Samuel 12:23 of that Old Testament reveals infants who die go to the place of blessing with saved adults (David would join his deceased infant son at death)!
 - 6. The Apostle Peter's words on the Roman Catholic Church's Confessional and Priesthood
 - a. Catholicism teaches that every Roman Catholic must go to that Church's confessional at least once a year to confess his sins to a Roman Catholic priest, *Ibid.*, Boettner, p. 196-198.
 - b. However, Peter in 1 Peter 2:1-2 with 2:5 teaches that even every new believer is himself a priest, and in 2 Peter 3:15-16 confirms Paul's words of 1 Timothy 2:5 that there is but **one** Mediator between God and any man, Christ! The Roman Catholic **hierarchical** priesthood **and** confessional are errant!

Lesson: From PETER'S words that Catholics AND Protestants would treat as being authoritative, each key Roman Catholic belief is in error where our views on these issues are Biblically CORRECT!