

Who is the pope?

-Bishop of Rome-

Pontifex maximus

Pope

Coat of arms

Style: His Holiness

Ecclesiastical province: Ecclesiastical Province of Rome

Headquarters: Apostolic Palace, Vatican City

First holder: Saint Peter

Denomination: Catholic Church

Established: 1st Century

Cathedral: Archbasilica of Saint John Lateran

Government: Holy See

Bishops emeritus: Benedict XVI



The **pope** (Latin: *papa* from Greek: *πάππας* *pappas*, "father"), also known as the **supreme pontiff** (*Pontifex Maximus*), or the **Roman pontiff** (*Romanus Pontifex*), is the bishop of Rome, head of the worldwide Catholic Church, and head of state or sovereign of the Vatican City State. Since 1929, the pope has official residence in the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican City, a city-state enclaved within Rome, Italy

CATHOLIC EXALTATION OF MARY & PRAYER TO SAINTS

- *Catholicism exalts Mary to a super-human position, and prays to her and to saints*
- "...the Blessed Virgin can do whatever she pleases both in heaven and on earth ... At the command of Mary, all obey, even God ... God grants the prayers of Mary as if they were commands ... Yes, Mary is omnipotent ... for the queen by every law enjoys the same privileges as the king ... Since the mother, then, should have the same power as the Son, rightly has Jesus, who is omnipotent, made Mary also omnipotent ... whatever the Mother asks for, the Son never denies her" -
Glories, pp. 154-156

CATHOLIC EXALTATION OF MARY & PRAYER TO SAINTS

- "...the Eternal Father ... besides giving us Jesus Christ, our principal Advocate with Him, was pleased also to give us Mary, as our Advocate with Jesus Christ ... He has placed the whole price of redemption in the hands of Mary, that she may dispense it at will .. The way of salvation is open to none otherwise than through Mary .. No one is saved but through thee ... Whoever asks and expects to obtain graces without the intercession of Mary, endeavors to fly without wings ... All graces are dispensed by Mary, and ... all who are saved are saved only by the means of this Divine Mother..." - *Glories*, pp. 169,85,143f,8

THE BIBLE: EXALTATION OF MARY & PRAYER TO SAINTS

- Jesus was born from Mary by the Holy Spirit – Lk 1:26-35
- He possessed His divine characteristics in common with God and His human characteristics in common with Mary
- Jesus is Deity – Jn 1:1-3; 14
- Deity is sinless – Mary was not without sin, Rom 3:23

THE BIBLE: EXALTATION OF MARY & PRAYER TO SAINTS

- Jesus is our only mediator and advocate with God in prayer and in salvation – 1 Tim 2:5; 1 Jn 2:1-2
- Only God can forgive sins – Mk 2:7-12; 1 Jn 1:5-10
- Salvation is only through Jesus – Acts 4:8-12; Heb 5:9
- We only worship Deity, not created beings – Matt 4:10; Rom 1:22-25
- To bow to or honor Mary as Catholics do is idolatry – 1 Jn 5:21

CATHOLIC LENT AND ABSTINENCE

- *Catholicism observes special holy days when eating meat is forbidden*
- Lent: "A fast of forty days preceding Easter ... There is no mention in Scripture of the observance of Lent, or, indeed, or any determined time for fasting among Christians" - *Dictionary*
- "What is abstinence? The Church's law of abstinence says that on certain days you may not eat meat ... What are the days of obligatory abstinence? Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent" - *Catechism*, p. 132

THE BIBLE: LENT AND ABSTINENCE

- The Lord's supper is the only New Testament memorial with any regular, fixed time, It's a memorial of Jesus' death observed every first day of the week – 1 Cor 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- 1 Timothy 4:1-3 – “Abstaining from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth”

CATHOLIC PURGATORY AND INDULGENCES

- *Catholicism teaches there is, after death, a place of temporary punishment which can be escaped by the merits of other people*
- "What is purgatory? A place and state of temporary punishment after death ... Who goes to purgatory? Those ... 1) who die while guilty of unrepented venial sins 2) who die without having done sufficient penance to pay the debt of the temporal punishment still due their past sins ... Where do you go when you leave purgatory? To heaven to be with God ... Can you help the souls in purgatory? You can shorten their stay by having Masses said for them, praying for them and doing good works for them"-*Catechism*, pp. 37-39

CATHOLIC PURGATORY AND INDULGENCES

- Regarding indulgences: "The Church has recourse to the infinite merits of Christ ... and to the merits of saints who have done penance more than sufficient to pay the temporal punishment due to their own sins ... their actions had a penitential character which availed for others if not needed for themselves" - *Catholic Dictionary*, p. 441

CATHOLIC PURGATORY AND INDULGENCES

- Regarding indulgences: In other words, people in the past did more good works than they themselves needed to get out of purgatory. By meeting the conditions set down by the priest, you can claim the benefit of these good works, so you or a loved one get out of purgatory sooner. That is an indulgence

THE BIBLE: PURGATORY AND INDULGENCES

- After death, there will be no crossing over from the place of punishment to the place of reward – Lk 16:19-31 (26,31)
- We are rewarded according to what we did in the body – Ezek 18:20; 2 Cor 5:10
 - No one's reward or punishment after death can be determined by what other people do

THE BIBLE: PURGATORY AND INDULGENCES

- Mankind has no excess good deeds beyond what we need – Rom 3:9-18, 23; 1 Jn 1:8-10; Jas 2:10; Lk 17:10
- God is no respecter of persons. Wealthy people have no advantage over poor people regarding their destiny after death – Acts 10:34-35; Jas 2:1-9; 2 Cor 8:12; Mk 12:41-44
 - But since the priest gets paid to say masses for the dead, the doctrine of purgatory lets people who are rich escape punishment sooner than poor people

CATHOLIC CONFESSION TO THE PRIEST

- *Catholicism teaches that sins must be confessed to a priest to be forgiven*
- "Who has the power to forgive sin today? All bishops and priests of the Catholic Church can forgive sin ... What do you have to do to have your sins forgiven? You have to be truly sorry for them and confess them to a Catholic priest ... Does the priest merely pray that your sins will be forgiven? No, acting as God's instrument and ordained minister, he truly forgives the sins" - *Catechism*, pp. 78

THE BIBLE: CONFESSION TO THE PRIEST

- Only God can forgive sins – Mk 2:7-12
- The words “priest, priesthood” are never applied in the NT to the office of the Christian ministry. All Christians are priest – 1 Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6
- All Christians can pray to God through Christ for forgiveness of their own sins – Acts 8:22; Matt 6:12

THE BIBLE: CONFESSION TO THE PRIEST

- Any Christian can pray for the forgiveness of other Christians; but they only pray – They cannot actually forgive the sin. And all the righteous men do this for one another – Jas 5:16
- The only mediator between us and God is Jesus – 1 Tim 2:5

We must conclude that, despite its claims, the Catholic church is not the true, original church since it does not follow the teaching and practice of the original church