

**A Biblical Study of
The Catechism
of the Catholic Church:
Bible Answers to the Most
Frequently Asked Questions
about Catholic Beliefs and Practices**

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**DID PETER
HAVE
AUTHORITY
OVER ALL THE
APOSTLES?**

“The sole Church of Christ [is that] which our Savior, after his Resurrection, entrusted to Peter’s pastoral care, commissioning him and the other apostles to extend and rule it. ... This Church, constituted and organized as a society in the present world, subsists in (subsistit in) the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him.” (CCC 816)

“For it is through Christ’s Catholic Church alone, which is the universal hope toward salvation, that the fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained” (CCC 816)

“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...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 and whoever despises them despises Christ and him who sent Christ’ (CCC 862)

Why do these big claims (CCC 816 & CCC 862) have no Scripture cited for their support in The Catechism of the Catholic Church?

Mark 3:14–19 “And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach [15] and have authority to cast out demons. [16] He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); [17] James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); [18] Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, [19] and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.” (ESV)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church references Jesus' "choice of the Twelve with Peter as their head" (CCC 765) and solely references Mark 3:14-15 for the evidence of this claim. Does Mark 3:14-15 reference Peter as the head of the church in any Bible? Why not?

Acts 2:42 “And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (ESV)

1 Corinthians 16:16
“be subject to such
as these, and to
every fellow worker
and laborer.”

Isn't the "loosing and binding" authority shared with the local churches? In 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 2 Corinthians 13:10, Titus 2:15, and Titus 3:10-11?

Is the authority of Timothy and Titus based on them being a bishop and having apostolic authority, or being a "fellow laborer"?

Revelation 21:14 “And
the wall of the city had
twelve foundations, and
on them were the twelve
names of the twelve
apostles of the
Lamb.” (ESV)

If the future heavenly holy city of Jerusalem has the name of the apostles on it (Revelation 21:14), why doesn't it recognize Peter as the head, or the first Pope/Bishop, or with some other sort of special recognition?

Romans 1:7 “To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints”

Why would Peter speak Acts 5:29 if he was also asserting Papal infallibility and the Magesterium of the Church?

Acts 5:29 “But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’” (ESV).

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