

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Catholicism Compared to What We Believe Pt2B
Catholic History and the Doctrine of Peter
Scripture Text: 2 Peter 2:1–3
05/20/2018

[This is a continuation of part 2]

Catholic Denomination

HISTORY

The largest religion in the world is Christianity 2.3 Billion

The largest denomination within Christianity is Catholicism with 1.2 Billion identified members.

This is right behind the Religion of Islam

The Name

The term **Catholic** first used to describe the Christian Church in the early 2nd century to emphasize its universal scope. In the context of Christian ecclesiology, it has a rich history and several usages.

The word in English can mean either "of the Roman Catholic faith" or "relating to the historic doctrine and practice of the Western Church."

The word "Catholic" was first used by Ignatius of Antioch around the year A.D. 110. It is from the Greek word *katholikos*, which means "toward the whole."

The term has been incorporated into the name of the largest Christian communion, the Roman Catholic Church (also called the Catholic Church). All of the three main branches of Christianity in the East (Eastern Orthodox Church, Oriental Orthodox Church and Church of the East) had always identified themselves as *Catholic* in accordance with Apostolic traditions and the Nicene Creed. Anglicans, Lutherans, and some Methodists also believe that their churches are "Catholic" in the sense that they too are in continuity with the original universal church founded by the Apostles.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_\(term\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_(term))

FOUNDER

Since the "Catholic church", of which there are several, that morphed out of the first Christianity movement, we must say that the founder is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Catholics apply this passage to Peter being that rock partly because the name "Peter". "Petra" =rock.

Although there was no title "Pope" in uses, Catholics accept Peter as the first Pope, Head of the church.

There has been by 2018, 266 Popes. In Greek Papas = Pope

You have heard me say many times that this passage has all too often been misapplied. Peter is not the rock upon which Jesus is building His church but Jesus is THAT ROCK. Here is what another commentator says:

“Since the NT makes it abundantly clear that Christ is both the foundation (*Acts 4:11, 12; 1 Cor. 3:11*) and the head (*Eph. 5:23*) of the church, it is a mistake to think that here He is giving either of those roles to Peter!” JM

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

Another passage they use to elevate Peter as the head of the church, or at least the first “Pope” is the following:

Matthew 16:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *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.”*

Jesus gave the keys of the kingdom metaphorically, (keys of Doctrine (MH)) or literally (Authority) to Peter or I believe to all the disciples, but it is generally believed to be just to Peter and that is why the statues and paintings of an image of Peter show him holding keys.

Let me try to explain that I think this authority applies to all of the Apostles and MAYBE to all heads of the local church.

Since Matt 16:19 related to a unique authority given in the presence of all the disciples after Peter said that Jesus was the Son of God (*Matthew 16:16*)

We must look at the correlation of this verse with other scriptures, mainly Matthew 18:15–20 read in our responsive reading.

Matthew 18:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.”* ²⁰ *For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”*

This also correlates with another passage.

John 20:23 (NKJV) ²³ *If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”*

There is no doubt in my mind that in these two passages Jesus is talking to ALL His “disciples” as identified in the beginning of the chapter.

Matthew 18:1 (NKJV) ¹ *At that time the disciples (plural) came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”*

I believe that it continues on to include those that will become disciples and specifically to those in authority in the church.

¹ MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). [*The MacArthur Study Bible*](#) (electronic ed., p. 1423). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

In both cases the statements do not apply solely to Peter. That being the case I conclude that the statement “give you the keys “authority” or “doctrine”, also applies not only to Peter but to all the disciples in church authority who acting in accord with God’s Word, has the authority to “declare” if someone is forgiven or unforgiven. (JM)

Review:

2 Peter 2:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, (Queen of Heaven, Mary’s equality with God, Mary the intercessor between man and Jesus)

even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their destructive ways, (currently estimated at 1.2 Billion)

because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. (Many non-believers want nothing to do with religion because of the hypocrisy, deception and false teaching) ³ By covetousness (desire for power and fortune) they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time, their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

END

Message Scriptures: 2 Peter 2:1–3, Jeremiah 7:18, Jeremiah 44:17-25, 1 kings 2:13-20, John 2:2–3, Romans 8:26, Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, 1 Timothy 2:5, John 19:26–27, Matthew 1:25, Mark 6:3, Matt. 12:46; 13:55; Mark 6:3; John 2:12; 7:3, 5, 10; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 9:5; Gal. 1:19, Matthew 16:18, 1 Corinthians 3:11, Matthew 16:19, Matthew 16:16, Matthew 18:19–20, John 20:23, Matthew 18:1