

"Church History: Heroes, Heretics & Holy Wars"

Sunday School Notes

Rev. David R. Dorst

Potomac Hills Presbyterian Church

CLASS 5 – The Papacy

The Bishop Of Rome was given the name *papa* meaning Father, evolved into Pope, not sure exactly when. Was used exclusively for the bishop of Rome in the sixth century. According to R.C. Sproul, by the end of the 1st century, the bishop of Rome had grown exceedingly more influential than other bishops. Within the next century, authority and power concentrated on Rome. At first, it was the prestige of the city of Rome, as well as the church in Rome being the largest and wealthiest. But as the Roman Empire went down, the bishop of Rome's elevation became theological. The Council of Nicea (325) recognized 4 bishops and their cities- Alexandria, Antioch, Rome and Jerusalem as preeminent. After Chalcedon, bishops from the West argued that Rome had primacy because of Matthew 16- "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church."

POPES OF NOTE:

Leo I – Called "Leo the Great" because of his seriousness and dedication, and because of his theological work *Tome*. That work greatly influenced the Council of Chalcedon, saying that Jesus was a single person with two natures. He also negotiated terms with Attila the Hun in 451, and had to deal with the Vandals attacking Rome in early 450s. He was seen as the great protector, spared Rome being burned.

Gregory I – "Gregory The Great" 590-604 – Gregorian chants are named after him because he had established training schools for church musicians; but scholars think that type of singing developed more in the 9th and 10th centuries. He also wrote the "Book of Pastoral Rule" to help educate priests in pastoral care. Was a great preacher. Advanced the concept of purgatory. Spawned the sacerdotal system, priests through ordination receiving the ability to act as mediators of God's grace to man through the sacraments. Had great concern for missions, sent Augustine (not the Bishop of Hippo) & 40 other monks to England, where 10,000 people got baptized at Canterbury and helped establish the church there.

800 – Pope Leo III crowns Charlemagne emperor. Charles the Great, or Charlemagne, spent 30 years pushing his empire to encompass modern-day France and much of Germany. Until Christmas Day, 800, Charlemagne held the title 'king.' Leo II crowned him Emperor. This showed that the Pope had tons of power. Importance: the Mediterranean world of the 8th century was being overrun by Islam, so Roman Christianity was shifting away from the East up to the north and west to Europe. Rome traded Constantinople for Europe.

904-911 – Sergius III – critics of Popes used Sergius as their prime example, said he was the 'slave of every vice and the most wicked of men.' His life as pope was one long string of scandal and decadence, which included murdering his predecessor, Leo V. At 45 yrs. of age, he was given a 15 year old mistress, whom he had a son with (who became John XI 6 Popes later). That woman, Marozia and her mother, Theodora, pulled the strings to establish who became Popes at the time, so the 10th century is sometimes called "The Rule of the Harlot."

955-963 – John XII was a terrible Pope; monasteries offered up prayers for his speedy death. He ran a brothel at the church of St. John Lateran; took his father's mistress, took money from pilgrims to use in gambling. He was eventually deposed by Emperor Otto. He came back to Rome and threw out his successor, Leo VII, then took vengeance on the bishops and cardinals by cutting off their fingers, noses

and tongues. Decapitated 63 members of the clergy and nobility. He was caught in the act of adultery by a jealous husband who smashed in his skull with a hammer.

964 – Benedict V – stabbed 100 times by the jealous husband of a woman he was having an affair with.

1032-1044, 1045 – Benedict IX. Pope at age 20. Called a “demon from Hell in the disguise of a priest.” Accused of vile adultery, murder, rape, homosexuality and bestiality! Forced from office twice, sold his office to his godfather/successor Gregory and retired to a life of luxury in the country.

1054 – The Great Schism (Eastern and Western churches formally excommunicate each other) Differences between East and West were starting to be profound, but stretched back to the 4th century:

East: used Greek, clergy could marry and have beards

West: used Latin, celibate clergy with no beards.

In theology, the East did not like the West’s doctrine of purgatory, and the West used the clause *filioque*, which means “from the Son” in the Nicene Creed, so that the Holy Spirit proceeded from the Father and the Son. The East did not agree that the Spirit proceeded from the Son; it was heresy.

In 1054, Leo IX was Pope in Rome, and Michael Cerularius was patriarch of Constantinople; Leo wanted Michael to submit to Rome, who refused, so they excommunicated each other. This was the final act that caused the schism. 45 years later Pope Urban tried to remove the excommunication and use the Crusades as a uniting force, but it failed. In 1453, when Muslim Turks took over Constantinople, some Eastern Christians claimed they preferred Muslims to Catholics.

However, at Vatican II between 1962-1965, the two churches revoked their mutual excommunications and celebrated Mass together. But no real healing of the division.

1088-1099 – Urban II called the First Crusade (talk about these more when we go over Crusades)

1145-1153 – Eugene III called the 2nd Crusade

1215 – Pope Innocent III calls the Fourth Lateran Council (and the 4th Crusade)

Innocent claimed that the Pope was a “mediator between God and man, below God, but beyond man.” The 4th Lateran Council brought: annual confession to a priest, the doctrine of transubstantiation, encouraged theological instruction for priests, urged the state to punish heretics and confiscate their property (or the authorities would face excommunication), the Pope alone had power to appoint bishops (not secular rulers), Jews had to wear badges and Christians couldn’t have commerce with them. He created the most powerful papacy in medieval history, reigned for the next couple hundred years.

1227-1241 – Gregory IX – Institutes the Roman Inquisition all over Europe. Mostly carried out by Dominican monks; torture to root out heretics & witches (though Gregory didn’t approve of torture).

1302 – Pope Boniface VIII claims that the pope has supremacy over every human being (in the bull *Unam Sanctum* – Latin for the Holy One)

1378-1414 The Great Papal Schism- The papacy had been moved to Avignon, France in the early 1300s – called the Babylonian Captivity. **Gregory XI** succeeded in bringing it back to Rome in 1377. But he died the following year, and many of the cardinals and bureaucracy were still in Avignon. Fearing a move back to Avignon, the Rome church elected Urban VI, an Italian who served in Avignon as a compromise candidate. But he was violent and abusive, and the cardinals didn’t agree with his election, so they elected Clement VII, who set up in Avignon. France, Spain & Scotland sided with Clement/Avignon; England, German & Italian empires sided with Urban/Rome. Successors were appointed in both places for the next 40 years. A third Pope came along in 1410 in Pisa (John XXIII). Ended with Council of Constance from 1414-1418, new **Pope Martin V** bringing both sides back together. Greatly expanded role of church councils, continued thru Vatican II (1960s).

1455-1458 – Callistus III – (or Callixtus III) – Part of the rich Borgias family, Callixtus excelled in nepotism, packing the Vatican with relatives.

1492-1503, Pope Alexander VI was also a Borgia. Sometimes called “the most infamous Pontiff of all time,” he basically bought his position. Openly flaunted his violation of celibacy by promoting children he had by different women to places of prominence. He married off his daughter, Lucrezia, 3 times to gain valuable connections, and his 9 year old son became a cardinal.

1471-1484 – Sixtus IV – started the Spanish Inquisition in 1478; Ferdinand and Isabella (yes, the same ones as Columbus) asked the Pope to start the Inquisition in Spain because they wanted to have a truly Christian nation. They expelled all Jews and Muslims from Spain, and later Protestants were executed. Lasted into the 19th century.

1513-1521 – Leo X excommunicated Luther (talk about that when we get to the Reformation).

1555-1559 – Paul IV cleaned up Rome during efforts of the Counter-Reformation.

Paul IV was kind of like a ruthless Rudy Giuliani, when he cleaned up NYC. He totally cleaned up Rome, sometimes with ruthless tactics, in the span of 4 years:

-Organized crime had flourished in Rome; Paul had the police round up the mafia and they were never heard from again.

-He sent out a notice that on a particular date that all the brothels would be turned into convents, and all the prostitutes would become nuns. Those who refused would be sent into the street.

-Every monk had to report to his monastic house by a certain date; when 200 of them did not report, he gave them the option of being imprisoned or sent to row galley ships.

1623-1644 – Urban VIII – In 1633 he ordered Galileo to appear before the Inquisition where he was forced to recant his scientific views of the earth revolving around the sun, forced to condemn the Copernican view of the universe that he had previously supported.

1846-1878 - Pope Pius IX proclaims the Doctrine of Papal Infallibility.

In 1854 he had pronounced the Immaculate Conception- not Immaculate because of Jesus’ sinlessness, but Immaculate because of Mary’s sinlessness. He called the First Vatican Council in 1869 and said that when the Pope speaks *ex cathedra* (“from the chair”), he is infallible. Longest lasting Pope ever– 32 years.

1958-1963 – John XXIII – calls the Second Vatican Council, not finished until **1963 when Paul VI is in office**. Sought to bring the church up-to-date: Mass in native tongue, vocations were dignified because all Christians have a Christian calling, encouraged study of the Bible and emphasized it as primary basis for truth, called Protestants “separated brethren”,

2013 – Francis – after Pope Benedict XVI’s abrupt retirement after only 8 years, Francis is the first from the Americas and the first from the southern hemisphere.

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