

Peter and the pope

Jesus gave one man keys. Why?

In short. Jesus gave Peter the keys and told him to feed His sheep.^{1,2} The Church teaches this office continues in the bishop of Rome, with infallibility limited to definitive teaching on faith and morals.^{3,4}

Key points

- The Lord made Simon alone the rock of His Church.³
- The pope is a visible source of the Church's unity.⁵
- Infallibility covers only definitive teaching on faith and morals.⁴

Try this, this week

1. Read **Matthew 16:13–19**.
2. Read **Isaiah 22:20–22**. Another set of keys, another steward.
3. Read the **Case page** on whether the papacy was invented later.

“He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you have affection for me?’ Peter was grieved because he asked him the third time, ‘Do you have affection for me?’ He said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything. You know that I have affection for you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’”

John 21:17, World English Bible

Common questions

Remember: Keys mean authority over the house.

Sources

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| 1. Matthew 16:19 (World English Bible) | 4. CCC 891 |
| 2. John 21:17 (World English Bible) | 5. CCC 882 |
| 3. CCC 881 | |

Quotation above: John 21:17, World English Bible. Catechism: official text on vatican.va.

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