

# Question:

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In our readings we have learned there have been Popes that were *bad Shepherds*, mostly for their personal behavior, but **they did not change Church teachings**. Pope Francis seems to be “**moving the goal post**”. This is troubling and a good subject for discursion.

There have been **266 popes** ( some say 267 + Stephen II in 752)

In the first three centuries of the Christian era, most suffered, about 20+, were martyred

During the Early Church, the Popes enjoyed no temporal power until the time of **Constantine in the 300s.**

**476**, the medieval papacy was influenced by the temporal rulers of Italy

# What is doctrine?

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The teaching of the Church on matters of faith and morals.

All such **teaching**—or at least **the basis for it**—was **handed down to the by Jesus and the apostles prior to the death of the last apostle.**

In any case, it becomes doctrine when the Church authority teaches that it is to be believed.

**Truth from Formal Revelation - Real Presence**

**Truth from Theological Conclusion-** Canonization of a saint

**Truth from Natural Law-** Abortion

# Some Doctrines:

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**The Holy Trinity**

**the Incarnation**

**Passion**

**Resurrection of Christ**

**Ascension**

**the Second Coming and Last Judgment of Christ;**

**the remission of sins;**

**Eternal life..**

# What is dogma (*Mater et magistra*)

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Dogma is “doctrine taught by the Church to be believed by all the faithful **as part of divine revelation and are declared as binding**”

When a doctrine is questioned, its is proclaimed a **dogma**.

**Doctrine** is a teaching; **dogma** is a decree

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All dogmas **are formally revealed truths** in Scripture or Tradition, either explicitly (as the Incarnation) or implicitly (as the Assumption)

There are **255 infallible dogmas** of the Catholic Faith that we must believe

# Marian Dogmas .

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**Divine Motherhood**

**Perpetual Virginity**

**Immaculate Conception**

**The Assumption**

# Some Dogmas of the Church

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There is only One God

God is eternal.

The **Baptism** of young children is valid and licit

The **Body and Blood** of Jesus Christ are truly, really and substantially present in the Eucharist

For children before the age of reason the reception of the Eucharist is not necessary for salvation.



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The power of consecration resides in a validly consecrated **priest** only

By virtue of Divine ordinance all grievous sins (mortal, serious) according to kind and number, as well as those circumstances which alter their nature, are subject to the obligation of confession

The confession of venial sins is not necessary but is permitted and is useful

**Holy Order** is a true and proper Sacrament which was instituted by Christ.

**Marriage** is a true and proper Sacrament instituted by God

Christ, on His **second coming**, will judge all men.

Male Priesthood

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Doctrine and dogmas are bound by **truth found in Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, or both.**

They **BEHOLD** and **RETAIN** what **our Lord and Master, Christ**, has taught by his words and accomplished by his deeds.

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**A Doctrine or dogma  
CANNOT change**

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And No one—has the  
authority to change doctrine  
because **they are founded upon  
the infallible Christ and the  
Church He established.**

## A **Discipline** of the Church

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The **Discipline** of the Church are the **laws** and **directions** given by the Church to the faithful for our conduct both private and public.

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They must adapt to the different circumstances of **time** and **place**, **conditions of life**, **customs of peoples** and **races**.

It must change if it would have its ultimate goal for the people

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Church discipline is subject to change is since it was made for men and by men.

It is man-made and can be changed as often as the Church desires to achieve its ultimate goal

# Some Discipline of the Church

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Meat on Good Friday

Liturgical Language

Priestly attire ( white and black)

Lay Ministry



# Role of A Pope : JOHN 21:17

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“When they had finished eating, **Jesus said to Simon Peter**, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these? “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “**Feed my lambs.**” Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “**Tend my sheep.**” The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “**Feed my sheep.**”

## John 10:16

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Jesus Is the Good Shepherd and remains the Devine Shephard of his flock. *“I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and One shepherd”*

**The One flock belongs to Christ, the One Devine Shepherd.**

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**Peter on the other hand became the earthly shepherd**, entrusted with the role of tending (shepherding) the flock of Christ.

**Shepherds: Guide/** Protect the sheep from going astray and from danger and Shepherds feed the Sheep.

These are the responsibilities of the Pope as the earthly Shepherd appointed by Christ.

Whatever weaknesses we might have seen in the history of popes only affirms our **doctrine of original sin**.

Popes are not insulated from its consequences. **Look at Peter** the first Pope who sets the tone for all Papacy..

**The teaching authority of the Pope and his infallibility** ( not capable of error in this teaching authority) is a whole different question **from his personal views on things or moral weakness** (if any).

No matter what he thinks or says as a private individual, he is still the Pope and still plays the role a Pope should play as custodian of the deposits of faith.