

3. Consideration of the Age and organization of the Roman Catholic Church in view of its most distinctive claim - the papacy.

a. Origin of term pope.

- (1) PAPA Italian for pope = π α τ α = father
- (2) In Gr. Orth. church papa = priest.
- (3) In West. Cath. church papa = bishop.

b. In the 8th century the practice of kissing the pope's foot was inaugurated.

c. Pope began to be crowned in the 9th century.

d. What is the pope? (Catholic Encyclopedia)

The supreme headship of the Catholic Church is resident in the office of Bishop of Rome. Thus the pope holds his overall authority by virtue of his office as Bishop of Rome. The Bishop of Rome is elected, not by the church as a whole but by the leading clergy of the city of Rome. The cardinals therefore hold honorary positions as clergy in the Roman church and by virtue of these positions vote for the pope. A bishop has complete authority over his diocese. Voting for papa is the Cardinal's only ^{pre-emptive} power through his office as cardinal. The archbishop is purely an administrative post.

e. Evidence.

- (1) Peter was an important figure in the early church even as James and John.
- (2) Various bishops of Rome were important in the early church.
- (3) There is no proof that Peter ever went to Rome and certainly none that he was ever Bishop of Rome. *or that he passed on any apostolic power to the B. of R.*
- (4) It is clear that the apostles appointed groups of presbyter - bishops as overseers of the flock. In times of stress such as those experienced by the early church it is almost inevitable that one man would become authoritative in the group. As early as 170 there was a man called the bishop in many towns.
- (5) In 90 A.D. Clement of Rome interfered with the church at Corinth, without however mentioning his own name or suggesting any personal authority.
- (6) In 110 A.D. Ignatius' epistles indicate that he thought highly of the Christians at Rome, and that he felt the authority of any particular bishop was exceedingly important. He did not however acknowledge any authority in the church over himself as bishop of Smyrna.

(7) None of the great Christian writers who formulated the theology of the early church were b. of Rome as one might well suspect. The →