

1. How did what began as a need to close ranks to deal with persecution and heresies, culminate in the papacy, a complete and total departure from God's plan for the church?

a) a distinction was made between "bishops" and "elders" - NT usage is interchangeable

(Acts 20:17, 28; Tit 1:5, 7; 1 Pet 5:1-4)

b) each local church had one bishop who had ultimate authority over other leaders

c) bishops then extended their authority beyond the local church → diocese

d) these bishops began to look on themselves as successors of the apostles

e) by the 3<sup>rd</sup> century these bishops held almost absolute authority in the church

f) bishops of leading districts came to be known as "patriarchs"

g) the bishop of Rome, in time came to be known as the "universal Bishop" (606AD)

e) this organizational corruption spread to doctrinal issues resulting in the papacy and the Church of Rome

2. The clergy exalted itself as those through whom the laity could have access to God, leading to titles such as "Father" "Reverend" "Eminence"

(Mt 23:8-10; 1 Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 1:5-6)

3. Already in Medieval times the popes were considered to be the ultimate authority in matters of doctrine and discipline

4. They considered themselves bound only by

a) the Scripture

b) the conclusions of the church councils which interpreted the Scripture

5. As a result the "church" became increasingly unbiblical in its teachings and practices

➤ 120 – holy water

➤ 157 – penance

➤ 175 – infant baptism

➤ 394 – Latin mass

➤ 588 – extreme unction – "last rites"

➤ 593 – purgatory

➤ 600 – prayers directed to Mary, dead Christians and angels

➤ 709 – kissing the pope's feet

➤ 786 – veneration of relics and images

➤ 927 – the College of Cardinals established - to advise the pope and elect his successor

➤ 995 – canonization of the deceased as saints

➤ 1000 – attendance at Mass made mandatory

➤ 1079 – celibacy of the priesthood decreed

➤ 1090 – sale of indulgences to reduce time in purgatory

➤ 1215 – transubstantiation proclaimed

➤ 1215 – doctrine of the 7 sacraments affirmed

➤ 1324 – infallibility of the papacy

➤ 1400ff – beginning of the focus on Mary

➤ 1545 – tradition and Bible equal in authority

➤ 1546 – Apocryphal books declared canon

6. the "church" presumed to improve upon the prescription of the NT by concocting teachings and practices utterly absent in the first church

7. the progression of the Roman Catholic church seems to have been motivated mainly by the desire for power

8. the Church has only one authoritative supreme Head, Jesus Christ Himself

9. Some individuals and groups arose attempting unsuccessfully to reform the catholic church, well before the time period we know as THE REFORMATION