

## Was Peter the First Pope? Part IV

Though we have barely presented all the evidence against the possibility that Peter would have allowed anyone to call him a Pope, this is the fourth and final article for now on the subject: Was Jesus' Apostle Peter the first Pope?

In about 64 A.D, Peter addressed his First Epistle to people of numerous churches of our Lord Jesus in regions of Turkey. In 2:9, he advised them:

*You are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. . .*

The Apostles regarded all baptized believers as priests. Their one High Priest is Jesus. No special priesthood existed then. As the Apostle Paul wrote:

*For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time (1Timothy 2:5).*

“One mediator between God and man” means that no believer, man or woman, needs a go-between with God other than Christ, God's Son. Baptized believers constitute the “Royal priesthood.” If they pray to God through Christ, God hears them through Jesus' intervention. These words come straight from God's Word.

Too many church people prefer human ideas over what the Scriptures state. To say that one needs the church to be saved, contradicts what God's word clearly teaches. In *New Testament* terms, the church is simply the assembled people of God--Christ's-saved-group, so to speak. How does one get into the church? As Paul explained in *1 Corinthians* 12:13: “By one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body.” Suppose a weary adult hears the good news of Jesus' death to pay for our sins and Jesus' resurrection to power the way for our victory over death. When that person turns away from the world's way to live for Christ and joins Jesus in baptism, God's Spirit begins to live in that person. The Lord adds him/her to his church. God loves to see us repent of our selfish pride and begin to live gratefully, praising him and purely loving others. No clergy are necessary. The *New Testament* records no infant baptisms. After Augustine misread the *Book of Romans* and taught that babies are born in sin, Catholics began baptizing babies (circa 400 AD).