

Catholics may argue that Jesus said the church is founded on “this rock,” so that rock is Peter (Matt. 16:18-19). Since Peter is the first pope, the church must be founded on other popes as well. Therefore, it makes sense that the Christian church should obey the popes. What Protestant ministers would do to prove that the rock is Christ is by turning to Greek lexicons. However, there are Catholic defenders that can do the same move as well. Thus, we have Protestants and Catholics battling back and forth with Greek words, rather than turning to the scriptures for the final authority. A true believer ought to rely on the word of God as the final authority for all matters of doctrine. So in the case of the rock in Matthew 16, who does the Bible refer to as the rock, the foundation of the Christian church?

1) Matthew 16:18: Jesus said “this rock” as reference to himself, not to another. In John 2:19-21, Jesus said “this temple” as reference to himself, not to another. The Jews thought “this temple” was referring to the Jerusalem temple, but Jesus meant himself (John 2:19-21). Likewise, when Jesus said “this rock,” he meant himself, not Peter. Give me proof or a Bible verse that claims “this rock” is Peter. You cannot find any! There are enough Bible verses to prove Jesus is the rock (1 Cor. 10:4; 1 Peter 2:5-8).

2) 1 Peter 2:5-8: There is not one Bible verse that said Peter was “this rock.” By context of the passage, Peter himself confessed Jesus is the rock.

3) Matthew 16:23: Right after Jesus supposedly called Peter “this rock,” Jesus called Peter “Satan.” If Peter is “this rock,” then you can have popes who are capable for being Satan.

4) Acts 10:25-26: Popes usually receive people bowing to them. But Peter rejected people bowing to him. So, Peter must be a bad pope.

5) Matthew 8:14; Luke 4:38: Peter had a wife. Peter cannot be a pope, because he has a wife. According to Catholicism, popes must never be married.