

What We Believe About the Roman Catholic Pope

Chapter 26 paragraph 4 of the 1689 London Baptist Confession states:

*The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the church, in whom, by the appointment of the Father, all power for the calling, institution, order or government of the church, is invested in a supreme and sovereign manner; neither can the Pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof, **but is that antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition**, that exalteth himself in the church against Christ, and all that is called God; whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.*

([Colossians 1:18; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:11, 12; 2 Thessalonians 2:2-9](#))

We agree with the confession that Jesus Christ is the Head of the church and that the Pope is not. However, we disagree with the confession when it comes to identifying the Pope as THE antichrist. We believe that there are many antichrists and one final embodiment of the term “antichrist” or “man of perdition.” We do not believe that the office of pope correctly fulfills that which the authors intended when they spoke of THE antichrist, or THE man of perdition.

The Apostle John warns his readers that, “it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come” (1 John 2:18). The reason that John tells us that there are many antichrists is because he identifies anyone “who denies the Father or the Son” as an antichrist.

We believe that the Pope therefore is one of the “many antichrists” who have come into the world because he denies the Son and makes himself to sit in the place of Jesus Christ, calling himself the “vicar of Christ.”

According to the Catholic encyclopedia, the title “vicar of Christ” is, “A title of the pope implying his supreme and universal primacy, both of honour and of jurisdiction, over the Church of Christ” to which is added, “In the course of the ages other vicarial designations have been used for the pope... but the title Vicar of Christ is more expressive of his supreme headship of the Church on earth.”

Because the pope denies that Jesus “is the head of the body, the church” (Col. 2:18) and makes himself to sit in the place of universal honor and authority. The pope therefore usurps and denies the position of Jesus Christ as the universal head, making himself what the Apostle John calls one of many antichrists. There is only one supreme head of the church, and the only human being who can claim to be the universal head, is Jesus Christ himself.