

Lecture 28: Developments in the Papacy

March 30, 2020

The Medieval Trend in the Papacy: More and More Temporal Power

Gregory I – purgatory	Papal States (AD 956-1870)
Gregory III – images	Capitulary of Saxony
Adrian I – first anathema towards a ruler	Pseudo-Isidorian Decretals
Leo III – judge of all, judged by none	Pornocracy (AD 904-964)
Nicholas I – princes over all the earth	Opp. Arnulf, bishop of Orleans (AD 991)

Clarification: *Assessing the office of the papacy vs. the pope as a man*

Illus. U.S. presidency vs. a president

The Cluny Reform

Issues: incontinence, simony, lay investiture

Clash: Pope vs. King

Illus. Gregory VII (Hildebrand) (AD 1073-1085) vs. Henry IV

Illus. Innocent III vs. John – cf. *Magna Carta*

Medieval Fruits of the Trend in Temporal Power

Increased Authority

Lateran Council (AD 1102) – the consciences of bishops bound on oath

Paschal II (AD 1116) – first general indulgence and first to assert, “I absolve you from your sins.”

Advocacy of the Sword

Crusades without – beginning with Gregory VII and implemented by Urban II

Inquisitions within – beginning with Innocent III and fueled by Gregory IX

Assessment of the Papal Trend

How much of this “fruit” represents the authority of Christ?

The Nature of Christian Oneness

Uniformity – requires centralized authority and force (e.g. the date of Easter)

Unity – allows for individual liberty of conscience (unity in cultural diversity, not “lording it over”)

1. Gospel Core – “evangelical unity” (cf. the outline of Romans and Galatians)
2. Personal Goal – “faith working through love” (Galatians 5:6)
3. Church Polity – decentralized government (e.g. Galatians 2:1-10, Paul and Peter)

The High Stakes of Papal Claims

“The Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered” (CCC 882).

Vatican I – papal infallibility (*ex cathedra*) – not in discipline, policy, or private opinion

Papal Encyclicals – Pius XII, *Humani Generis* (1950)

If these claims are legitimate, then disobedience to the pope is disobedience to Christ.

Illus. Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae* (1968) – birth control

If these claims are illegitimate, then the so-called “vicar of Christ” replaces Christ and the office becomes cultic.

Illus. Diotrophes (3 John 9 – “who loves to be first among them,” excommunicates the brothers)

Biblical Assessment

Matthew 16 – Peter as “the rock” with the keys of the kingdom

Ans. Matthew 18 – the power of the keys in a local congregation

Acts 1 – apostolic succession?

1 Samuel 8 – the desire for a visible king, fulfilled in the Incarnation

John 13-16 – the Vicar of Christ is the Holy Spirit, the universal Chrism (2 Cor. 1:21-22; 1 Jn. 2:20-27)

Sum: Demands for “the tangible, the material, the sensible as an accompaniment of the purely spiritual” (Cannon).