

How influential is the Papacy today?

- **His Following:** 1.2B (World), 69.5M (US), 27M (Twitter).
- **His Influence:** Middle East, Congress, Head of State, Massive Crowds, Honored by World Leaders, Media, etc.

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2** By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, **3** and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. **4** You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. **5** They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. **6** We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

The Spirit of Antichrist...

1. It claims to be God's infallible mouthpiece on earth. (1)
2. It does not "confess" the true doctrine of Christ. (2-3) 2Jn 7-11
 - (1) **JESUS** *Jehovah Saves* (2) **CHRIST** Prophet, Priest, King (3) **FLESH** *Full Humanity*.
3. It is the Kdm of Satan & of the World cleverly disguised as a church. (4-6) 2Jn 7-11

2Jn 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. **8** Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. **9** Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. **10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; **11** for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

1. To "not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh" is to "not abide in the doctrine of Christ". Gal 1:6f ; 2Cor 11:2f, 13f (person & work, true gospel, etc.)
2. These deceives are identified by what they DO NOT openly confess and teach.
3. Believers must not "receive" (i.e. Support, Assist, Encourage) or "greet" (Treat as a Fellow Saint or Brother or Co-Laborer in Christ) such persons. Eph 5:11

2Thes 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him¹, we ask you, **2** not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.²

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first³, and the man of sin⁴ is revealed, the son of perdition⁵,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.⁶

- **Father** Mt 23:9 **Son** Mt 23:8f; Eph 5:23 **Holy Spirit** Jn 16:7.
 - Speaks Infallibly, Forgives Sins, Receives Worship, Dethrones Kings, etc.
- **Sits as God** Sits = Rules Enthroned [**Holy See, See of Peter, Chair of Peter**]
- **Temple of God** (*Actual Bldg*) 1Co 3:16f; 2Co 6:16; Eph 2:21; Rev 3:12 [**After Curtain Torn!**]
- **Showing Himself** "*Mystery, Working of Satan, Lying Wonders, Deception, Strong Delusion, Lie*"

¹ 2Thes 1:6f; Mk 13:26f

² 2Tim 2:14-18

³ 1Tim 4:1f

⁴ Num. 35:28

⁵ Jn 17:12

⁶ Dan 11:36f