

The Pope's Wrong

Many, like myself, struggle to accept any degree of perfection, in the sense of infallibility, within a human being. To begin with, the clear statement from Paul that “*all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23) seems final on the point of any possible infallibility, a kind of “nail in the coffin,” so to speak. Nevertheless, one of the strongest tenants our Catholic friends cling to, quite vituperatively, is their religious leader’s infallibility. But, the “Pope” is a man, one of those “all” of whom Paul speaks. How did this originate and how is such an error maintained among people who claim to belong to Christ?

What is even more astonishing is the nonsensical nature of such an appointment to such a high station, as if a human being could be sinless, perfect or infallible. It is absolutely illogical to argue that a sinful human being is flawless. Who would have such hubris as to appropriate Divine characteristics? One fellow observed, “The dogma of infallibility was not decreed until the Vatican Council in 1870. This was a most absurd proceeding, truly. Imagine a company of blind men decreeing that one of their number had vision, and you have the parallel of a council of fallible men decreeing that one of their number was infallible” (D. M. Canright).

And, I suppose, with no malice intended at all, one can look at their own, Catholic-approved record of past Popes and honestly question the seriousness of how anyone can reasonably, honestly believe in the Pope’s infallibility. Of course, the first proviso that was quickly adopted is that the Pope is *only* infallible when speaking *ex cathedra*. In other words, he is susceptible to flaws as a human but perfect in his role in representing the Divine message. Now, how does that work? Like, eating meat on Friday, which is one of the oldest of Catholic dogmas but is now just voluntary (note 1 Timothy 4:3). What changed? And, what do we do with Catholic traditions that flatly contradict Jesus. “*And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father which is in heaven*” (Matthew 23:9). The grammatical tap-dancing necessary to make that verse not say what it most certainly does say has been a terminal thorn in the side of Catholic doctrine for eons.

Frankly, the Pope’s wrong.