

# Is the Doctrine of Papal Infallibility a Novelty?

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**Matthew 16:17**

## NAB rendering

**Matthew 16:17** Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

## NAS rendering

**Matthew 16:17** And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

## KJV rendering

**Matthew 16:17** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

## BIBLICAL GREEK rendering

**Matthew 16:17** Καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ, Μακάριος εἶ, Σίμων Βαριωνᾶ, ὅτι σὰρξ καὶ αἷμα οὐκ ἀπεκάλυψέν σοι, ἀλλ' ὁ πατήρ μου ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς.

**We must be clear in our teaching on the Papacy.**

It wasn't σὰρξ καὶ αἷμα

- FLESH OR(kai=and) BLOOD - that revealed the identity of Christ as Messiah to Peter, but it was the FATHER in Heaven.

Heaven is the abode of NO ERROR or DECEIT.

Indeed, the Biblical Greek tells us that the Father revealed ---ἀπεκάλυψέν ---this truth to Peter.

Peter will have the power to BIND and LOOSE, with this BINDING and LOOSING directly protected from error from HEAVEN!

# What about the ARROGANCE of the PAPACY?!

"Tradition--I am tradition!"

LA tradizione sono io (I am tradition)

We can find these words, uttered by Pope Pius IX used by many Protestants in today's day and age. The reason for using the words is to claim that the Papacy's arrogance is utterly blasphemous. It is to make one believe that Pius was full of himself when he uttered the phrase, LA TRADIZIONE SONO IO.

But if we are to examine the context of why Pius made such statements, we can find that arrogance is not one of them.

It was indeed Cardinal Filippo that went against the proclamation of the dogma of Papal Infallibility.

Protestants tend to think that there were many Bishops and Cardinals that WENT AGAINST the teaching of Papal Infallibility. Such is far from the truth. The protestations were mainly due to the fact that many envisioned a larger rift spreading between the Orthodox and the Catholic Church. As such, Filippo was against the teaching being made dogma because he said,

**"EUROPEAN TRADITION IS UNFAVORABLE TO THE DOGMA."**

Pius replied by stating , "I AM TRADITION."

And this was quite correct. The doctrine of the Papacy and Papal Infallibility is not only Biblical but it's Historical, and to protest against the proclamations of a dogma simply due to the fact that Filippo believed that European tradition did not support the dogma is simply unacceptable.

Usually the context of why the Pope made such a statement is left out wholly. For instance, Protestant apologist Robert Goddfrey in his work entitled "What Do We Mean by Sola Scriptura?", says:

*As Pope Pius IX said at the time of the First Vatican Council in 1870, "I am tradition."7 The overwhelming arrogance of such a statement is staggering. But it confirms our claim that, for Rome, the only real authority is the church: sola ecclesia.*

If we stop to explain to our Protestant brethren the context surrounding such statements, we can clear up a lot of misconceptions. Hopefully this short examination can clear up some misconceptions.