

Ecclesia Semper Reformanda Est

Peter's confession and Jesus's promise to build his church and entrust Peter with the keys
Matthew 16:13-19

I. Introduction: Great moments in the history of God's people

II. The reformation (re-formation) of God's people

It is no longer the Pharisees and Sadducees who will direct worship

God's people which he calls, "the church" will include Jews and Gentiles

III. The basis of inclusion – confessing the Person of Christ:

Who is Jesus? (13-16)

The opinions of people then and throughout history

Peter's divinely inspired answer

IV. Jesus blesses Peter (17-18a)

Peter (Petros, *rock*) is blessed with a divine revelation of the truth

It is revealed to him by God (Matthew 11:27, 13:11)

Has it been revealed to you? Who do you say that Jesus is?

He is part of the foundation rock (Petra) of Jesus' church (Eph 2:20)

Does this mean that Peter was the first pope? or infallible?

taute te petra – upon "*this very rock*" – could point to Peter's revelation

Jesus is ultimately the foundation and cornerstone of the church (1 Cor 3:11)

V. The promise of protection of the church from "the gates of hell" (18b)

Ecclesia Semper Reformanda Est (The church continually reformed)

Anytime the church comes off of the foundation of Christ, it must be reformed

Death will never prevail over God's people

VI. Peter (and ultimately the church) receives the "*keys to the kingdom*" (19)

Keys = responsibility and authority of the Gospel

bind and *loose* = locking and opening the kingdom by the Gospel

Peter utilizes the keys as Christ builds the early church (Acts 2:36-41, 4:11)