

Church History

Sacerdotalism

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- *⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. (1 Tim. 2:5-6 NIV)*
- Sacerdotalism - religious belief emphasizing the powers of priests as essential mediators between God and humankind.
- Sacrament
- One point of disagreement in early church – human will.
 - Pelagius and Augustine
 - Infant baptism

How did the priest – popes become so powerful?

- Claimed succession from Peter and then from Christ.
- Emperors
- Other Priests
- False, counterfeit documents
- Powerful Popes
- Jesus was prophet, priest and king.
 - Prophet – teacher – spokesman for God – speaking as God
 - Priest – gives God's grace through the sacraments
 - King – made laws, judged conduct, punished

Sacraments

- Baptism
- Eucharist – Lord’s Supper – 1Cor. 11:24, eucharisteo
- Confirmation – lay hands, anoint with oil, “sealed with Holy Spirit”
- Reconciliation – confession, penance
- Anointing sick – unction, last rites
- Marriage
- Ordination – for a priest or bishop, act confers sacramental power to ordain, baptize, confirm, witness marriages, preach, absolve sins and consecrate the Eucharist.

Crusades

- 1096 – 1291
- Magna Carter 1215
- “Unfortunately the popes never held two basic truths that we must never forget: Christianity’s highest satisfactions are not guaranteed by possession of special places, and the sword is never God’s way to extend Christ’s church.” (Church History in Plain Language by Bruce L. Shelley)