

# “Simon Peter, a Servant And Apostle of Jesus Christ”

2 Pet. 1:1

## Introduction:

- A. Simon Peter - a colorful and paradoxical character.
  - 1. Lord could bless then rebuke almost in same breath. (Matt. 16:13-23).
  - 2. Peter could say, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” and “I do not know the Man” -- all in the same night.
- B. Simon Peter - an interesting and inspirational character because of:
  - 1. His Personal background.
  - 2. His Personality Traits.
  - 3. His Prominent positions.

## Discussion:

### I. Simon Peter's Personal Background.

- A. His family background.
  - 1. Son of Jonah [John]. (Matt. 16:17; John 1:42)
  - 2. Brother of Andrew. (John 1:40)
  - 3. A married man. (Matt. 8:14; I Cor. 9:5).
- B. His ethnic background.
  - 1. A Jew through and through.
  - 2. A Galilean. (cf. Acts 2:7).
- C. His religious background.
  - 1. Jewish
  - 2. Likely disciple of John. (cf. John 1:35,40).
- D. His occupational background.
  - 1. A fisherman. (Matt. 4:18-20)
  - 2. Partners with Andrew, James and John. (Luke 5:10).

### II. Simon Peter's Personality Traits.

- A. Quick spoken.
  - 1. First to speak time and again. (cf. Matt. 14:28; 15:15; 16:16; 26:33).
  - 2. Sometimes spoke without thinking. (Mark 9:5,6; Luke 9:33)
- B. Paradoxical.
  - 1. With a few hours he said following:
    - a. “I will lay down my life for Your sake”. (John 13:38)
    - b. “I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death” (Luke 22:33).
    - c. “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.” (Matt. 26:33)
    - d. “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You” (Matt. 26:35)
    - e. “I do not know the Man!” (Matt. 26:72, 74).
  - 2. Within a few hours he did the following:
    - a. Cut off a man's ear trying to defend Jesus. (John 18:10).
    - b. Cursed and swore at those to indentified him with Jesus. (Mk. 14:71).
  - 3. He was first to preach to gentiles, then later would not eat with them. (Acts 10; Gal. 2:14ff).
- C. “A stone” (John 1:42; cf. Matt. 16:18)
  - 1. Jesus could see real strength in this paradoxical character.
  - 2. Peter became a real rock of strength in early church.
    - a. His preaching. (Acts 2,3)
    - b. His firmness. (Acts 4:19,20; 5:29)
    - c. His zeal. (Acts 9:32).
    - d. His acceptance of correction. (cf. 2 Pet. 3:15)

### III. Simon Peter's Prominent Positions.

- A. “An apostle of Jesus Christ”. (1 Pet. 1:1; 2 Pet 2:1; Matt. 10:2).
- B. “A fellow elder” (1 Peter 5:1).
  - 1. Not a “presiding” or “chief” elders, but “fellow elder”.
  - 2. Not “universal” elder or bishop. (An interesting letter from Gregory, the Great [Bishop on Rome] to John, the Faster [Bishop of Constantinople] in 588 A.D. is quoted Church History for Busy People, by George Klingman. pp. 14-20)

## Conclusion:

- A. Peter was a great apostle, preacher and elder, but he was never pope.
- B. Peter was a great man whose mistakes are apparent, but rebounded from them well.