

But that the Pope was the supreme ruler, yes. But the Pope today does not claim that the Pope has any right to advance new doctrine. The Pope does not claim today any knowledge except what he gets from reading the Bible or from the tradition which he claims has been passed down from the Apostolic days. Of course, we Protestants deny there is a

(1.) The Council of Trent established it that there is, according to it, a tradition which has been passed down and the Pope has the authority to interpret that tradition. But he has no authority to originate anything whatever or to advance any new ideas, but only to interpret the tradition.

(1.25) The Pope was not recognized as absolute monarch by the Council of Trent at all but he was given such tremendous power that it inevitably led in that direction. Now the Council of Trent, as I mentioned to you, was in three different periods. The first was 1545-47 and that was the time when Luther was still living. The Protestants were invited to the Council. Charles V wanted to get all Christians together and to have them agree on what the truth was so they could all stand together. And there were many at the Council who desired that that should be done. But the Jesuits very cleverly worked in such a way that the initiation of discussions and the conduct of the order of the meetings was in the charge of the representatives of the Pope, (2.25), and during this first meeting they had many speeches which were in favor of justification by faith or in favor of compromising on many lesser matters in order to make agreement with the Protestants. The majority of those bishops there in the course of the whole meeting, held to this view. But it lasted for three years and naturally these people couldn't just go over and stay there for three years. People were coming and going and being so near to Italy, it was possible to keep more Italian bishops there than any other. And they saw to it that when vital matters came up for voting