

Study Guide : The Magisterium of the Church

To study the topic on the Church's teaching about the Magisterium, consult the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. What is the task of the Magisterium of the Church? What is its role in relation to Scripture? (CCC 85-86, 890, 2032-2033)
2. When does the Church exercise its Magisterium to the fullest extent? What does this exercise mean for the faithful? (CCC 88, 95)
3. What is the “supernatural appreciation of the faith?” In what sense is it impossible for the faithful to err in matters of faith? What is the role of the Magisterium in this unerring faith? (CCC 91-93, 889)
4. How does the Church come to know the Holy Spirit? What ways does the Church as a community of faith have of communicating that knowledge to the faithful? (CCC 687-688)
5. In what two areas may the teaching authority of the Church claim infallibility? (CCC 890)

6. How is the Magisterium of the Church usually exercised? What is this exercise called? (CCC 892, 2033)

7. Who are the authentic teachers that participate most directly in the Magisterium? What is the role of theologians and other persons who have teaching roles? (CCC 2034, 2038)

8. Under what circumstances may the pope be considered infallible? How do the bishops participate in this charism of infallibility? (CCC 891-892)

9. To what does the charism of infallibility extend? What are the rights and duties of the faithful here? CCC 2035-2037)

10. What is the role of the Magisterium when it comes to private revelations, such as prophecies and visions? (CCC 67)

11. What response is the Christian obliged to give to the teaching authority of the Church, whether exercised in an infallible manner or not? Does the Christian have the right in conscience to dissent from Church teaching? (CCC 892; see also 143, 150, 156, 1122, 1396, 1993, 2089, 2106)