

The Church Jesus Built: What Is the Church?

(Colossians 1:13-23)

Introduction: In Matthew 16:18, we read where Jesus spoke of His church. He promised “I will build my church.” But what exactly is the church...? What is this “church” Jesus said He would build? What is this “church” that Jesus loves, nourishes, and cherishes? What is this “church” that some have sought to redefine? If we desire to be in “The Church Jesus Built”, we should know exactly what it is.

I. The Church Defined

- A) The Greek word is “EKKLESIA”
1. Many have noted that this word is a combination of two words:
 - “ek” (out of) and “kaleo” (to call)
 - a. Concluding that the primary idea is that of being “called out”
 - b. Christians were called the “ekklesia” because they were “called out”
 - c. This is a common mistake of defining a word by its etymology rather than by its actual usage in its historical context
 2. The word “church” as defined by Easton’s Bible Dictionary:

“In the NT it is the translation of the Greek word ‘ecclesia’, which is synonymous with the Hebrew ‘kahal’ of the OT, both words meaning simply an assembly.”
 3. Thayer’s definition: “a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly” (Acts 19:39; 7:38; 19:40-41).
- B) “EKKLESIA” AS USED IN THE BIBLICAL SENSE...
1. Thayer’s definition offers the following of “ekklesia” in a Christian sense: (1 Cor 14:19,35; 1Thess. 1:1; 1Cor. 1:2; Eph 1:22-23; Heb. 12:22-23).
 2. Putting it most simply, we can think of the church in two primary senses:
 - a. The church universal - whole assembly of people who are saved, both living and dead
 - b. The church local - a company of saved people in a geographical area

II. The Church Described

- A) The church is “the _____ of Christ” (Ephesians 1:22-23)
1. This metaphor depicts the relationship we enjoy with Christ & each other (Colossians 2:19; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Romans 12:5)
- B) The church is “the _____ of God” (1Timothy 3:15)
1. This emphasizes the familial relationship we enjoy in Christ (Matthew 12:48-50; Mark 10:28-30; 1Timothy 5:1-2)
- C) The church is “the _____ of God”
1. A holy habitation or dwelling of God (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5).
 2. We have responsibility to maintain purity (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1).
- D) The church is “the _____ of Christ”
1. As Paul wrote to the Colossians, God “transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” - Colossians 1:13; cf. also Revelation 1:9
 2. This emphasizes the authority-making power in the church; Christ is King, He has all authority! - cf. Matthew 28:18,20
- E) The church is “the _____ of Christ”
1. We are betrothed to Christ - cf. 2 Corinthians 11:2
 2. This figure portends of an even greater relationship with Christ is the future! - cf. Revelation 19:6-9; 21:2

Conclusion: We are talking about “The Church Jesus Built.” One that is highly esteemed in the Scriptures and one that should be highly esteemed in our own hearts!

My Notes: