

# **“The Doctrine of the Church”**

## **Matthew 16:13-18**

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### **I. Introduction**

- A. As Christians, we are not only to be committed to Christ, but we are also to be committed to the church
  - 1. “...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Ephesians 5:25)
  - 2. “...Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body” (Ephesians 5:23)
  - 3. As Christians, we are part of Christ’s church, His body
  - 4. One day we will be caught up to be with Christ
    - a) Illustration- The church is the bride of Christ
  - 5. What is Jesus doing now?
    - a) He is building His church
    - b) The church is Christ’s body, bride, and building
    - c) To understand the Bible, you must understand the church
    - d) In Matthew 16, Jesus gives us a promise about His church

### **II. Christ’s Promise About His Church**

- A. It’s a permanent foundation (v. 18)
  - 1. “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church” (v. 18)
  - 2. What is the foundation of the church?
    - a) Not Peter!
    - b) It is Peter’s confession (v. 16)
    - c) It is Jesus Christ
      - 1) (1 Corinthians 3:11)
- B. His personal involvement
  - 1. “I will build my church” (v. 18)
  - 2. Jesus is the one who is building the church
  - 3. He uses us, but he is the builder, not us
- C. His positive expectation
  - 1. “I will build my church” (v. 18)
  - 2. The church will be triumphant
- D. His powerful advance
  - 1. “I will build my church” (v. 18)
  - 2. (Acts 2)
    - a) On the day of Pentecost
  - 3. (Acts 1:8)
    - a) Jerusalem
    - b) Judea
    - c) Samaria
    - d) Rome
- E. His personal ownership
  - 1. “I will build my church” (v. 18)

2. Jesus bought the church with His own blood
    - a) (Acts 20:28)
  3. Christ is the head of the church
  4. Christ is the Chief Shepherd of the flock. We are His sheep.
- F. A people-centered priority
1. “I will build my church” (v. 18)
  2. The church is not a physical building or organization
  3. It is redeemed people
    - a) The universal church
    - b) The local church
- G. A promise of success
1. “The gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (v. 18)
  2. Satan will not win!
    - a) (Revelation 4-5)
  3. What does a local church look like?
  4. What are the essentials of a true church?
    - a) (Acts 2:41)

### III. A Picture of a Spirit-Filled Church

- A. We live in the Church Age
1. It ends with the Rapture
  2. (Acts 2:41-47)
  3. The church does not replace Israel
    - a) (Romans 9, 10, 11)
  4. What are the essentials of a local church?
- B. Sound biblical doctrine
1. A learning church
  2. “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine (v. 42)
  3. There is nothing more important for the church’s life, health, and growth than the preaching and teaching of God’s Word
    - a) This is a Spirit-filled church. What did they do? They studied the apostles’ doctrine
  4. The number one priority for a pastor or elder
    - a) Preach the Word
    - b) (2 Timothy 4)
  5. They were a learning church
- C. Loving fellowship
1. A loving church
  2. “...and fellowship” (v. 42)
  3. The word “fellowship” is “to hold in common”
  4. “The word fellowship was born on the Day of Pentecost” – John Stott
  5. True Christian fellowship has two basic aspects
    - a) We share in a common salvation
      - 1) We are all saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone
      - 2) (Ephesians 4:4-6)
      - 3) It’s the fellowship of the Saints

- b) We share in a common service (v.v. 44-45)
  - 1) True Christian fellowship shares in service to others
    - a. Serve one another
      - i. (Galatians 5:13-15)
    - b. Bear one another's burdens
      - i. (Galatians 6:1-5)
    - c. Pray for one another
      - i. (James 5:16)
    - d. Forgive one another
      - i. (Ephesians 4:32)
  - 2) Are you living in fellowship with your brothers and sisters in your local church?
  - 3) (1 John 3:14)

#### **IV. A Worshipping Church**

- A. "And in the breaking of bread and in prayer" (v. 42)
  - 1. They were:
    - a) Learning the Word of God
    - b) Loving the family of God
    - c) Worshipping the true and living God
  - 2. "The breaking of bread and prayers" (v. 42)
    - a) The use of the definite article it suggests a reference to the Lord's Supper and the prayer meeting
  - 3. Two aspects of their balanced worship
    - a) It was both formal and informal
      - 1) "And they, continuing daily with one accord, in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house" (v. 46)
    - b) It was both joyful and reverent
      - 1) "...did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart" (v. 46)
      - 2) "And fear came upon every soul" (v. 43)
      - 3) Worship should be both formal and informal
      - 4) The church's highest priority is to worship God
  - 4. Everything we do as the church is to be done as an act of worship
    - a) We congregate to worship God
    - b) We celebrate all that God has done and is doing
    - c) We commemorate the Lord's Supper
    - d) We communicate by preaching and listening to God's holy Word
    - e) We consecrate our lives to serve God as an act of worship
      - 1) True worship includes obedience
      - 2) God wants your heart

#### **V. An Evangelistic Church**

- A. A truly Spirit-filled church is not so preoccupied with in-reach and up-reach that they forget outreach
  - 1. A Spirit-filled church is an evangelistic church
    - a) Jesus said, "But ye shall receive power" (Acts 1:8)

- b) Before Christ sent the church into the world, He sent His Spirit into the church. The same order must be observed today
    - c) Jesus said, “Go into all the world...”
- B. Facts about the early church’s evangelism
  - 1. It was the Lord working (v. 47)
    - a) Through the preaching and witness of the apostles and people
      - 1) Mass evangelism
        - a. (Acts 2)
      - 2) Personal evangelism
        - a. (Acts 8)
      - 3) Through missionaries
        - a. (Acts 13)
      - 4) The Spirit sent them, and the Lord was working
        - a. (Psalm 127:1)
    - b) The Lord did two things together
      - 1) He added to the church (v. 47)
      - 2) He added to those that were being saved (v. 47)
        - a. He did not add them to the church without saving them, nor did he save them without adding them to the church
    - c) The Lord added daily (v. 47)
      - 1) “Kept adding daily”
      - 2) Evangelism was a daily part of the church

## **VI. Conclusion**

- A. Learning God’s Word
- B. Loving God’s people
- C. Worshipping God
- D. Witnessing to the world