

# The Church that Christ Builds, Part 1

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 16:18-20.
- B. There is a distinction between building the church and having a church that Christ is building.
- C. In spite of what appears on the surface, Jesus affirms to his disciples that he is building his church.
  - 1. There have always been times where it appeared that God's people were wiped out.
  - 2. This gives great hope that there will be victory in the end.
- D. There are certain characteristics of Christ's church.

## II. It is certain.

- A. This is so since Jesus is building it.
- B. All we are called to do is to be in the place where Christ is building by taking on the right attitudes.
- C. The Lord is the one who builds the church, not people. (John 6, Acts 2:47, 5:14, 11:24, 13:48, 18:10, Ephesians 5)
- D. The Lord is building the church to present it to himself for his glory. (Ephesians 3:21)

## III. Intimacy.

- A. We are Christ's personal possession. (Acts 20:28)
- B. We are joined to him in one spirit. (1 Corinthians 6, John 10)

## IV. Identity.

- A. "Church" was a very general term for those assembled. (Acts 7, 19:32, Hebrews 12:22)
- B. Jesus is saying that he is continuing to build his redeemed people/his kingdom.
- C. The emphasis is on his continued building of the redeemed community.

**Application Questions:**

1. Why is it important to recognize that men do not build Christ's church?

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2. What does it look like to partake in the building effort of Christ?

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3. How is Christ's desire to have a personal relationship with his followers reflected in his building effort?

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