

## **Church that Builds, Part 2**

*John MacArthur*

### I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 16:13-20.
- B. Throughout history God has been building a righteous assembly.
- C. We should not be surprised that God is collecting a redeemed people for himself.
- D. Believers are called to glorify God--this is the purpose of life.

### II. What the church of Christ is like.

- A. There is certainty.
- B. There is intimacy. (Hebrews 2)
- C. There is identity. It is a group called out. (Acts 7:38; Act 6; 1 Timothy)

### IV. The foundation of the church: Peter.

- A. Catholics say this means that Jesus made Peter the first pope. However, Christ is the head of the church not Peter.
- B. The church is built upon the foundation of the prophets and the apostles with Christ being the chief cornerstone. Peter was a representative of all the apostles. (Ephesians 2:20)
- C. The church was built on the teaching of the apostles not their persons. (Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 3)
- D. There is no indication from Jesus or the other disciples that Peter has been given supremacy.

### V. The invincibility of the church.

- A. The gates of Hades will not prevail against it.
- B. Hades--the abode of the dead--will not be able to hold the church. (John 14:19, Hebrews 2:14, Acts 2:24, 1 Corinthians 15:50, Revelation 1:18)
- C. The only power the Devil has over the church is death. But Jesus has the keys of death. The grave will not hold the church.

### VI. The authority of the church.

- A. Whatever would be bound would be bound or whatever would be loosed would be loosed. This authority to forgive or not to forgive is given to all the apostles and even the church. (John 20, Matthew 18)

B. That authority comes from the Word of God. We can know what heaven is approving and disapproving by the Bible.

C. This is why we must never compromise the Word of God. The church is God's standard in the world.

V. The spirituality of the church.

A. The people were looking for a political, economic ruler.

B. Jesus' Messiahship was spiritual not political.

**Application Questions:**

1. How would you counter the claim that Matthew 16 establishes the Roman Catholic pope?

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2. What does it mean that the church has as its foundation the apostles (Ephesians 2:20)?

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3. What does the authority of the church look like practically?

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