

The Church matters! Matthew 16:13-18

Maybe you have heard people say that they love Jesus, but don't like the church. There are people who think they can have a relationship with Jesus apart from his church. They would just love Jesus and believe in Jesus but don't want anything to do with the church. There is even a book written entitled "*They like Jesus, but not the church*" by Dan Kimball. There are so many wrong things with claiming to love Jesus and then not loving his church. I understand some of us have been hurt by churches; some have vowed to never set foot at a church building due to the hurt and pain a local church inflicted them. These are some of the reasons why some people don't like the church.

Nevertheless, When we go through Scripture and study the church of Jesus Christ, we will then understand that Christ's church matters. ***The church matters because it first mattered to God!***

Matthew 16:13-18

Jesus said that he will build his church. The church has one originator, pioneer, founder, Jesus Christ.

What is the church? Definition!

The word church never refers to a building or business. The word here is ***Ekklesia: assembly, (Called out ones), congregation.*** *The biblical definition of church is a gathering, assembly or congregation of those who profess Jesus as Lord.*

The church of Jesus Christ began with the preaching of the apostles in the first century, during the day of Pentecost. With the very words of Peter: "***you are the Christ***" **Acts 2:36-38**

Peter called people to choose Jesus. "*That Jesus whom you crucified, God made him Lord and Christ*"

Those who received Peter's message were baptized and added to the number of disciples. (v.41)

The Church belongs to Jesus, he is her founder. Jesus bought the church.

Jesus paid a huge price for his church.

His blood,

Acts 20:28 ...which he purchased by his own blood

Revelation 5:9with your blood you purchased people for God.

I Peter 1:18-19redeemed by the precious blood of Christ.

1 Cor.6:20 ...honor God with your bodies because you were bought by a price, you belong to the one who purchased you.

Ephesians 1:7 we have redemption through his blood, forgiveness of sins.

Christ loved the church, therefore it matters. (Ephesians 5:25)

Christ loved the church so much that he sacrificed himself for her in order to present her holy and blameless.

If the church mattered that much to God, then it should matter to us as well.

The church of Jesus Christ will transcend time. It will live forever. Our history as a nation will one day come to an end. The church will continue. It is promised a kingdom with Christ. The church destiny is eternal. The church of Jesus Christ prevails through obstacles, and even hell won't be able to stop her.

The gates of hell will not overcome it. (Matt.16:18).

If you belong to the Church of Jesus, then your destiny is eternal with him.

Everlasting life. You will reign with him in glory.

Jesus is calling people to himself through the preaching of the gospel; when people respond by accepting Jesus by believing and being baptized into his name, they become part of his community we call Church. A church made of people who belong to God, loved and purchased by Jesus' blood, a church that will transcend time.

If the church was such a big deal to Jesus, shouldn't it be such a big deal to us also?

You matter to God!