

THE CHURCH THAT IS "OF" CHRIST

Matt 16:13-19

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Christ promised to build "His" church, singular, just one:
Note Paul's use of the singular in Gal 3:16
- B. The church the Lord built is much misunderstood today
- C. It is wide in scope - not narrow as charged - widest in scope of any religious institution
 - 1. Denominations are creed bound and by their own admission do not contain all the saved
 - 2. Lord's church contains all of the saved Acts 2:47; Eph 2:16; 5:23

DISCUSSION:

I. USE OF THE WORD CHURCH

- A. Meaning: EKKLESIA Matt 16:18- called out body of people 1Pet 2:9 (out of darkness)
- B. Used in a geographical sense Acts 9:31
- C. Universal sense - includes all the saved Matt 16:18; Eph 1:22,23; Col 1:18
- D. Local sense - Local group meeting for work and Worship Acts 13:1; Rom 16:16; 1Cor 1:1,2; Tit 1:5

II. FIGURES DESCRIBING THE CHURCH

- A. Kingdom - relationship - subjection to king
 - 1. Three elements in kingdom - territory, subjects, king
 - 2. Christ is king 1Cor 15:25; Christians translated into kingdom Col 1:13; hence subjects Eph 5:24
 - 3. Territory is all the world "universal" Matt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15,16
- B. Body - relationship - unity
 - 1. Body is the church Col 1:18,24 - only one 1Cor 12:20; Eph 4:4
 - 2. Christ is its Saviour and head Eph 5:23; Col 1:18
- C. House of God - relationship - family 1Tim 3:15; Heb 3:6
 - 1. God is father Matt 6:9 - Christ older brother Heb 3:6
 - 2. God as the father directs the affairs through Christ
- D. Temple of God - relationship - God's spiritual dwelling place 1Cor 3:16
 - 1. Built up a spiritual house 1Pet 2:5
 - 2. Must not defile 1Cor 3:17
 - 3. God dwells in his house Eph 2:19-22

IV. HOW WE ENTER THE CHURCH

- A. Unbelievers Acts 16:25-34
 - 1. Told to believe
 - 2. Preached word so could believe
 - 3. Washed their stripes (repented)
 - 4. Was baptized
- B. Believers Acts 2:36-41
 - 1. Peter preached
 - 2. They believed – pricked in their hearts
 - 3. Told to repent and be baptized
 - 4. Received word – were baptized
- C. Penitent believers Acts 9:1-6, 9, 17,18
 - 1. Go into city be told thee what thou must do
 - 2. Believed on Christ (on road to Damascus)
 - 3. Demonstrated repentance – fasted and prayed
 - 4. Was baptized
- D. We are baptized into Christ Gal 3:26-27
- E. We are born into the family of God Jhn 3:3-5
 - 1. Born of water and Spirit
 - 2. Baptism is the culmination of this birth process

CONCLUSION:

- A. Are you a member of the Lord's Church – the church which is of Christ
- B. If you haven't fulfilled the conditions for entering the church you do not enjoy the relationships which exist in the church
- C. If you are a member of any religious body that teaches a different plan for entering the church then you are not in the Lord's church
- D. Why not become a member of the Lord's church today