

Jesus Promised to Build His Church

Matthew 16:13-19

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Talk about confusion, when talk turns to the church, the sky is the limit to the extremes we encounter. Almost any and every notion imaginable seems to be out there somewhere regarding the nature of the church. A check from the source of the church's identity, the Bible, will help clear up the confusion.

Startling Truths about the Church

- Jesus built only one church (Matt. 16:13-19; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4)
- Jesus sets Christians apart in only one truth (Jn. 17:17)
- Jesus is the only way into the church (Jn. 10:7; 14:6)
- The church is to be united, not denominationalized (Jn. 17:21-23).
- The members of Jesus' church are not to behave in a sectarian manner (Rom. 2:17-24)
- Letterism and legalism are not permitted (Matt. 9:9-13; 12:1-7)
- Nobody ever gets it 100% correct (Rom. 3:23; I Jn. 1:9-10)
- Yet, everyone is expected to faithfully try (I Jn. 1:7)

Some Therefores

- Attending the church of His choice is the biblical route, not the church of our choice (Matt. 11:28-30)
- Being right does not mean being a better person, Jesus is our hope, not our virtue (Isa. 64:6)
- Pursuit from the heart can sometimes trump gross achievement (Lk. 18:9-14)
- Unity is VERY much appreciated by God, we must give it our best shot (Ps. 133:1)
- Quirky stands do not play well in attracting people to Jesus (Matt. 23:5).
- Love is always required (I Cor. 13:1-3)

Well now, the church as it is biblically defined sure is different from what we sometimes hear. However, not only does its true identity contrast to the notions of the world, sometimes it meets believers face to face with challenges. May the will of God prevail in all we do to be the church Jesus built.