

JESUS' KIND OF CHURCH

Matthew 16:18

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: There seems to be some confusion today as just what the Church is, where/how it got its start and to whom it really belongs. Churches today have different concepts of the Scripture, different goals, different interests, different purposes, and different programs for their membership. What happened to the original purpose of Jesus' Church? It is His Church, He founded it and He gave instructions in what direction His Church was to go and to whom it was to involve. Too many Churches of today are far from the original purpose of their being here.

I. JESUS' CHURCH DOESN'T HAVE WALLS OF DIVISION

1. **"...Where there is neither Greek, nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free; but Christ is all, and in all..." (Colossians 3:11)**
 - The Church is to be a place where people of all backgrounds can come together to worship, to disciple one another, to grow and hold each other accountable.
 - This theme is repeated often in the Word of God.
2. **"...For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us..." (Ephesians 2:14)**
 - Jesus brought together both the Jews and Gentiles who before had been separated in worship.
 - Remember the temple and its walls separating the Gentiles, the women, the men, then the priests, and then the Holy of Holies? Each was separated from the other.
 - Jesus removed that wall of separation and through and in Him there are NO walls, everyone has the same privileges with the Lord Jesus.
 - Sadly, some Churches have tried to build similar walls as the temple had, separating different kinds of people from other kinds of people.
3. In **Colossians 3:11** there is included not only Jews being joined with the Greeks, different races are united in Jesus, slaves as well as those who are not slaves, EVERY person has equal access to God through the Lord Jesus and is treated equally by God.
4. **"...Go ye therefore, and teach ALL NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost..." (Matthew 28:19)**
 - **"...And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in ALL THE WORLD for a witness unto ALL NATIONS, and then shall the end come..." (Matthew 24:14)**
 - It is very clear that God wants, insists that EVERY people group be represented before He establishes His Kingdom upon this earth.
5. **"...After this I beheld, and, lo a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands..." (Revelation 7:9)**
 - Some may not like it since they show favoritism today in their Church actions, but heaven is clearly going to be place of great variety made up of people from all over the earth, from all walks of life.

II. WHY IS THE CHURCH BEING "ONE BODY" SO IMPORTANT?

1. Every human being is different, there are no two human beings alike in every way and one has but to look at his/her own family and friends to see that.
 - Consider sports: Not everybody likes football, but many do and in the United States, football is a favorite sport, along with baseball and basketball, however in other parts of the world, other sports are favored but not football, baseball or basketball as here.
 - Consider music: Not everybody likes the same kind of music. Some like classical, some like rap, some like country, some like jazz, some like choral/choir, some like organ, some like piano, some bands, some orchestra, some guitar and stringed instruments, others like wind instruments and the list goes on. Not everybody likes the same kind of music here and in other parts of the world.
 - Everybody, more or less, loves sports, but not always the same kind. Everybody, more or less, loves music, but not always the same kind, etc.
 - . There are many things people love that are unique ONLY to their own area, their culture, their country, their "world" and no where else.
2. What if there was "something" so universal that everyone, no matter where in the world he/she lived, no matter what kind of society he/she belonged to, no matter what language he/she spoke, no matter what color of skin he/she had, no matter how healthy or ill he/she was, no matter how different he/she was from anybody/everybody else, everyone was attracted to that "something"?
3. There is GOOD NEWS! There is "something" that everyone can have, no matter where they live, who they are, and it is the best thing that could ever happen to them. The trouble is that most of the people in the world don't know about this wonderful, available "something."
4. That "something" that everyone can have is JESUS!
 - Jesus is Savior and Lord of ALL.
 - Jesus is the King of kings.
 - Jesus is the Lord of lords.
 - Jesus is worthy of praise from every single person, every group, every culture, every continent, every nation, every mountain, every valley, every island, every language.
 - Jesus' Church is the place where there are no divisions, where EVERYVBODY comes together as ONE.
5. Indeed every person is an individual and different from any other individual but in Jesus Christ's Church nobody stands alone, by him/herself for all are equal.

III. MANY CHURCHES TODAY FOCUS ON ONLY A PARTICULAR PEOPLE

1. HUP stands for "Homogeneous Unit Principle" which stresses Churches catering their ministries and message to a particular people group, therefore being "homogeneous."
 - Reaching only the white, middle class group.
 - Another devoted to reaching African American families.
 - Some focus on Hispanic or other language groups.
 - Churches doing this focus/target everything on reaching that one particular group.

2. Churches following this "focus on a particular group" are not following Jesus instructions.
 - God has not given any Church the right to choose who they will "target" with the gospel.
 - Jesus' Church is to actively pursue the lost of EVERY people group and is to be a Church that reaches as many people groups as possible.

3. It is easier to try to reach out to people who are similar.
 - Same language.
 - Same color.
 - Same dress/hair style.
 - Same likes/dislikes.
 - Same nationality.
 - However, doing so is not what Jesus told the Church to do.
 - Jesus died for EVERYBODY, not just a particular kind, group of people.

4. Being the Church that Jesus wants is not easy.
 - It means reaching out to those who are different.
 - It means listening to the kind of music you don't like.
 - It means trying to understand the language that is different.
 - It means learning the habits and customs of others.
 - It means accepting dress styles that you don't agree with, etc..
 - It means DOING WHAT JESUS WOULD DO IF HE WERE THERE.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus' kind of Church reaches out to every kind of person, no matter who and welcomes them in when they come.
2. Jesus' kind of Church reaches out to tell ALL people about Jesus.
3. Jesus' kind of Church exists on LOVE. Everything it does is out of love for the Lord Jesus and for others.
4. People who have been reached out to in love by people from Jesus' kind of Church will make that Church their Church when they become believers in Jesus.
5. What kind of Church do you have? Jesus' kind or somebody else's?

(This outline is from a newsletter article written by the pastor of the First Baptist Church, Homestead, Florida, Pastor, Howard Harden)