

THE CHURCH JESUS BUILT

Matthew 16:18-19

Introduction: Just about everyone in our country has seen a "church." "Turn left at the 'church,'" and so on. But what exactly do those building represent? What goes on inside the "church house?" There are lots of "church" buildings, but not all of them are really what Jesus built.

1. The "Church" is to represent Jesus! Nothing or anybody else.
2. The "Church" is called:
 - The Bride of Christ - A bride commits herself to her husband and her husband commits himself to her, thus it is so with the Church Jesus built.
 - The Body of Christ - A body is a living thing through which a person acts. So the "church" is PEOPLE through whom Jesus Christ acts.
 - The Family of God - A family is a group of closely related individuals who take care of one another. So the "church" is people whom Jesus Christ takes care of.
 - The Army of the Lord - An army is a band of soldiers trained, armed, and organized for war. So the "church" is people with whom Jesus Christ advances His kingdom.
 - The Building of God - A building is a structure in which a person dwells. So the "church" is people in whom Jesus Christ dwells.
3. The "Church" as:
 - The Bride is a believer's relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - The Body is the believer's work for Jesus Christ.
 - The Family is the believer's fellowship with Jesus Christ.
 - An Army is the believer's mission from Jesus Christ.
 - A Building is the believer's unity with Jesus Christ.
4. The "Church" as"
 - A Bride, should be loving.
 - A Body, should be serving.
 - A Family, should be nurturing.
 - An Army, should be advancing.
 - A Building, should be standing.

I. THE "CHURCH" HAS ONLY ONE FOUNDATION (v18)

1. The "Church" is built upon the "rock!"
 - The "rock" is NOT Peter or some Pope as some believe.
 - The "rock" is not the changed character of Peter and the Apostles.
 - The "rock" is what Peter said about Jesus, Peter's "confession."
2. "Christianity" is this: Jesus is God, not just one sent from God, not just a part of God, not just a representative of God, but Jesus WAS, IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE FULLY GOD.
(John 14:8-9)

3. Jesus' Church is built upon HIMSELF!
 - Not upon some pastor or some program or some music style.
 - Not upon activities or a certain religious cult or sect of people.

II. THE REASON FOR JESUS' CHURCH

1. Jesus gave His Church the "keys" to the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - Keys are used to unlock, to open, thus Jesus' Church opens the way to Heaven.
2. Jesus' Church is to do God's will on earth as God's will is done in Heaven.
3. Jesus' Church is to tell the world about Jesus and how to get to Heaven.

III. VICTORY FOR JESUS' CHURCH IS GUARANTEED (v18)

1. Hell, hades, the grave nor the dead will hinder or stop the work of Jesus' Church.
2. Not even death, itself, will stop the work of Jesus' Church.
3. The evil works of Satan or mankind will never stop the works of Jesus' Church.

CONCLUSION:

1. Lots of "church" buildings have closed their doors for various reasons but the doors of Jesus' Church will never be closed for there is nothing that can close them.
2. The ONE, TRUE Church is the one that is founded by and upon Jesus, not by some person, some family, some religion, some government, some denominational church split, etc.
3. Through it all and when all is said and done, Jesus' Church will still be standing. Whose Church are you a part of?