

## THE REAL CHURCH

**Matthew 16:18 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 John 10:27-28 Ephesians 1:20-23**

**Introduction:** The Bible, being from God, reveals God as a loving Father, as coming to earth as Jesus and as staying in this world, living within His own children as the Holy Spirit. Those who become God's children have been called many names through the centuries: Christians, sheep, saints, believers, the new creation, the elect, the body of Christ, the bride of Christ, brethren, His own, witnesses, ambassadors, strangers, pilgrims, the household of God, the sons of God, priests, branches, and many more. Of all the names given believers, Jesus chose to call them "ekklesia" or His "called out ones." The word, "ekklesia" or called out ones has gradually changed through the centuries by different languages adopting the meaning of the word to fit their vocabularies and therefore today in the English language the word "church" is used to mean "the called out ones."

### I. JUST WHAT IS THE REAL CHURCH?

1. The "Church" Jesus died for was not a building.
2. The "Church" Jesus died for was/is people.
  - Not just anybody, but those who believe in Him and accept Him as their Lord.
  - Today there are "churches" all over and the membership is mixed for not everybody on today's church rolls are Christians, sad to say.
3. The real Church is individuals who were convicted of their sins by the Holy Spirit, who then believed in Jesus Christ and were born again through their faith in and surrender to Jesus.
4. Most local churches were begun years ago by true, real born-again believers. Like all other local churches, there are "tares" or imitators of real Christians on the church rolls.

### II. WHAT DOES JESUS WANT HIS CHURCH TO DO?

1. There is no "commandment" given to the "organized" body called a Church.
2. Jesus commanded each individual believer to witness, teach, baptize as he/she went about his/her daily life.
3. Today's church has changed from the original intention of Jesus:
  - There are social churches -occupied in going and in fellowshiping.
  - There are singing churches - occupied mostly with musical presentations.
  - There are teaching churches - occupied with conventions, seminars and various courses.
  - There are evangelizing churches - occupied with baptismal numbers.
  - There are plateaued churches - going nowhere, just holding their own.
4. Jesus' purpose of His Church was/is to witness to the lost and teach God's Word to those within God's family and to live in such a way that the world would/will see that the

Christian has something different.

### **III. HOW DOES JESUS SUSTAIN HIS CHURCH?**

1. Jesus' Church has the Bible. Within it's pages is everything the Christian needs to know about living with one another and walking with God.
2. God has also indwelt each of His children with His own presence, the Holy Spirit, to teach, encourage, convict, protect, and to illuminate His Word.
3. God has given each of His children at least one gift to be used within the Church family for the purpose of sharing and upbuilding the Church's well being and work.
4. God has given each of His children an open door to His presence through prayer and the child of God has but to lift up his/her heart and mind to God and God hears instantly.

### **IV. WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF JESUS' CHURCH?**

1. One day a trumpet will sound and a shout from heaven will be given and every child of God will be caught up to the place Jesus is preparing for them this very moment.
2. The child of God will be finally released from the Old Sin Nature he/she was born with and has wrestled with for so long.
3. The child of God will be safe from Satan and all the pitfalls and dangers he caused.
4. The child of God will lay down his/her fleshly body and will receive an everlasting, eternal, glorified body, like that of the Lord, Jesus.
5. Lastly, will be the eternal fellowship with Jesus, Himself, the angels, and all those mentioned in the Bible who loved and obeyed God, as well as family and friends who also believed.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. What most people call the "church" of today is not what Jesus died for, but those within the circle of people bearing the name of "Christian," those who have been born again.
2. For those who think they want to follow Him and become a Christian, Jesus made it very clear that "He must come before anything or anybody" or else they could not be His disciples.
3. Jesus also said, concerning those who are "tares" or imitator-Christians, *"...not everyone who saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of God..."*
4. The "real Church" is composed of only sincere, true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.  
- Of which church/Church are you a member?