

Review/Preview

Love God

- by pursuing God in the Word and prayer
- by worshipping God corporately and personally

Build the Church

Matthew 16:13-20

1. Jesus' Question

2. The Varying Answers

3. Jesus' Affirmation and Promise

- I will build My church
- The gates of hell shall not prevail against it
- I will give you the keys of the kingdom

What is the Church?

- Ecclesia - "called out and gathered assembly" (Act19:32-41)
- In the NT, those called out of the world and assembled together at Mt. Zion in Christ - Eph1:22-23; 2:11-22 (sometimes called universal)
- Also, those called out spiritually regularly gathering in particular geographic locations - Gal1:2, 22 (usually referred to as local)

Who builds the Church?

- Clearly Jesus Himself, and if He doesn't build it, then whatever it is it isn't His church
- He does so by laying the foundation of Himself in the completeness of His person and work
- He does so by calling Jew and Gentile to Himself personally - Jn10:16; Eph2:17 How does Jesus build His Church?

- Oikodomeo - edify, build, build up; of the construction of a house or other structure
- Ordinarily by preaching the Gospel and exercising Spiritual gifts by us!
- 1Cor3:1ff; 12:1ff; 14:3ff; Eph4:11-16
- This is not separate from Jesus' work, but the specific way in which He works Jesus builds His Church through His finished work - - in conjunction with:
 - Calling His people through our proclamation
 - Serving His people through our gifts
 - Suffering for His people through us (Col1:24)
- Application: We have an amazing, God-ordained privilege of being co-laborers in the work of Christ
- We ought to love and have focused attention on our local church, as it is an outpost of the Kingdom of God
- yet, our great labor and prayer ought to be for the Church of which ours is one particular expression
- Without this perspective, there can be detrimental and unhealthy tendencies
 - Parochialism - a limited or narrow outlook, especially focused on a local area (citywide, nationwide, worldwide)
 - Cultism - a misplaced or excessive admiration for a particular person or thing (leader, confession of faith, denomination)

Conclusion: Jesus has promised and will indeed build His Church

It is for us to do our part in prayerfully dependent cooperation with Him:

- by making and maturing Disciples of Christ
- by equipping and serving the Body of Christ