



What is the Church? Part 1

"Seek First the Kingdom & His Righteousness"

United Community Church

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The church is not where you go, it is who you are. Therefore, every Christian who comes to meet together is the church body. The church is called the "body of Christ". **Rom 12:4-5** – "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

In other words, we are all individual Christians who are called to one body meaning we are interconnected. **1 Cor 12:25-26** says, "that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

As members of the body of Christ, what must be our focus? The KINGDOM. Jesus taught the disciples to pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." What does that mean?

IF WE SET THINGS IN ORDER ON EARTH LIKE THINGS ARE IN ORDER IN THE KINGDOM, GOD HAS A POWERFUL ORGANISM TO ACCOMPLISH HIS MISSION ON EARTH. THAT MISSION ON EARTH IS FOUND IN JOHN 17, "TO BRING GLORY TO GOD." WE BRING GLORY TO GOD WHEN WE GET RIGHT WITH GOD AND OBEY GOD.

I have a series of Scriptures on the screen that I want you to see and look at the caps in yellow.

- BE MY WITNESSES – Does this describe the church as a place to go or a place to BE? What does Jesus tell us to be? WITNESSES. Why does God give us the power of the Holy Spirit? TO BE WITNESSES. Witnesses of whom? JESUS CHRIST. Witnesses how? Through the Word of God (The standard and source of truth), Through our witness with our mouths (The spoken truth), and Through our lifestyles (Testimony of how the truth transforms us)
- GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES – Does this describe the church as a place to come and meet or a place to GO AND MAKE? What does Jesus tell of to go and make? DISCIPLES. What are disciples? FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST. Therefore, as a follower of Jesus Christ, your job is to go and make

followers of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28 tells us that is what God has given the church the authority to do.

- SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS – Does this tell us to seek the church that fits our needs or seek the KINGDOM OF GOD & HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS to build HIS KINGDOM? SEEK HIS KINGDOM. What is the central focus of His Kingdom? HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS. What happens when we put His Kingdom first? All these things will be added to you.
- ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH – Does this tell us the foundation of the church is the people and the programs or the foundation is THE ROCK? Who is the ROCK? JESUS CHRIST. When we build the church on Jesus Christ, what power do we possess? THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT. How do we accomplish this? THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. What are THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN? God's Word, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and your testimony.

What Does All of this Mean?

Stop focusing on the institution of church (Everything we see today) and focus on you being a vital member of the body of Christ in three areas.

The City – if we seek first the kingdom should all church be working together or separately? Together. Why? Because the power is released in the body or the church (all churches collectively) in the city.

Are all the churches in cities around the world working together or divided? Divided. Why? Because WE are not seeking first the kingdom.

The Church – if we seek first the kingdom with Jesus Christ as our foundation, will the church be united or divided? Will the church be inward focused or outward focused? Will the church working together in the orderly way God designed to accomplish His mission go and make disciples?

Are many churches united or divided? Divided. Why? Because WE are not seeking first the kingdom.

The Home – if we seek first the kingdom in our homes, will our marriages work better? Yes. Will our families work better together?

Are families united or divided? Divided. Why? Because WE are not seeking first the kingdom.

So what is the starting point? Seek first the kingdom!