

FOCUS

“What, Why, Who & How” Pt #1

Matthew 16: 13-18 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” **14** “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” **15** Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” **16** Simon Peter answered, “**You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.**” **17** Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. **18** Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and **upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.**”

1. **What is the Church?** (Greek word: Ekklesia – a gathering of people, assembly, congregations) (NOT a religious institution or building)

Key: without understanding the purpose of a thing...it is inevitable that at a minimum we misuse it and a maximum we abuse it. (people, gifts, resources, time)

Key: Cornerstone – a stone that forms the base that all other stones are set by. A cornerstone was said to be sacred in Eastern architecture.

Matthew 16:18...upon this rock (divine revelation of who HE is)

Therefore, the Ekklesia are all those with this revelation gathered together. Which means the church is really a PEOPLE...not just a PLACE. The church is not about SACRED SPACES, but SACRED (set apart) PEOPLE.

2. **What are the people of God to do together?**
 - a. **Encounter** God’s presence in a way that furthers their personal revelation and ongoing transformation.

- b. **Experience** God's family (Meeting & Eating Acts 2:46)
- c. **Engage** God's mission together. (Zacchaeus)

Luke 18:10 For the Son of Man came **to seek and to save the lost.**"

3. Why has God done all this and why should we participate?

John 3:16 ***For God so loved the world*** that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is ***by grace you have been saved***, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.