

Increase: Building a Strong Church

Jesse Berthold / February 18, 2024

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BUILDING A STRONG CHURCH

WHAT MAKES A CHURCH A CHURCH?

A church is a group of people that have trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and have chosen to follow Him even if it means to their death!

Matthew 16:13–19 (NLT) 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. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

Verse 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.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

The purpose of the church is to continue the work that our Lord started while He walked upon this earth...

Mark 16:15 (NLT) And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

John 14:12 (NLT) “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.”

Matthew 28:19–20 (NLT) “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

WHAT MAKES A CHURCH STRONG?

1. Spirit filled leaders

Acts 1:4–5 (NLT) “Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. ⁵ John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:8 (NLT) “... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 6:3–4 (NLT) “And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. ⁴ Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.”

2. A church that loves

John 13:34–35 (NLT) “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

1 Peter 1:22 (GN) “Have a sincere love for you fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts”

Ephesians 4:29 (TPT) “And never let ugly or hateful words come from your mouth, but instead let your words become beautiful gifts that encourage others; do this by speaking words of grace to help them.”

3. A church that walks in unity

4. A church that serves one another in love

1 Peter 4:10 (PH) says... “Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you...”

Ephesians 4:11-12 says “God gave... some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...”

5. A church that grows spiritually

1 Peter 2:2 (TPT) “In the same way that nursing infants cry for milk, you must intensely crave the pure spiritual milk *of God’s Word*. For this “milk” will cause you to grow into maturity, fully nourished and strong for life...”

6. A church that gives of their first fruits

7. A church with vision

Proverbs 29:18 (TPT) “When there is no clear prophetic vision, people quickly wander astray...”

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) “Where there is no vision, the people perish...”