

Sermon Reflections

The Church that Christ Built (Part 2) Matthew 16:13-20

Summary: Christ builds His true church on Himself — around a true confession of faith in Him. Confess Christ, join the Church, and help us stay built on Christ, true to our confession.

Seek First the Father's Kingdom. Four Marks of Christ's True Church:

1. We Confess Christ in the World (vv. 13-16)

2. We Are Converted By the Father (v. 17)

3. We Congregate Around This Confession (v. 18)

- What is the issue, interest, or subset of the church that you are tempted to gather around instead of Christ?
- What steps can you take in your fellowship group or at Sunday worship to focus on Christ as the “main thing”?
- As you benefit from the ministry of Christian pastors, preachers, authors, etc., how can you prevent yourself from becoming divisive or improperly loyal to any of them? (cf. 1 Cor 3:4-8)

4. We Confirm Who Is in the Kingdom (vv. 19-20)

- How are the “keys” Jesus referred to in v. 19 more like keys that grant entrance, such as to a house or through a gate, than they are like car keys?
- How does Matthew 18:18-20 help clarify that Jesus is not giving Peter personally unusual authority in 16:19? What institution is given the keys to the Kingdom?
- In adding or removing members, is a local Church causing any change in their eternal destiny or rather recognizing that such a change has already taken place?
- Who works in the believer's heart such that the believer can make a true confession?

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. Colossians 1:27-28 (ESV)