

Renewed Church
All Things New #17 | Matthew 16:13-20
April 24, 2022

Pre-Sermon Remarks

- Final sermon in this series, Leviticus next week

PRAYER

Gospel Renewal

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Minds | 6. Singleness | 11. Service |
| 2. Hearts | 7. Friendships | 12. Community |
| 3. Bodies | 8. Money | 13. Evangelism |
| 4. Marriages | 9. Work | 14. Leadership |
| 5. Parenting | 10. Rest | 15. Hope |

Big idea: Through the gospel, Jesus is continually renewing his church

The Church of Jesus

**Conversation about the identity of Jesus*

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus responded, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

The Church Is Not

1. A building | Say the “church *building*”
2. An event | The gathers regularly, ala Hebrews 10:25
3. A business | NT pays preachers, financial aspect
4. A club | Rotary, Elks Club, friendship group, do-gooder organization
5. ☩ The Kingdom | Church ☩ Kingdom of Heaven
 - a. The church is an *outpost* of the kingdom, embassy

Big idea: The church is the called-out people of God, assembled by, on, and for Jesus

- Ekklesia = assembly (political term). Ek = out / kletos = called
- “I will build my church” = we don’t build his church, he doesn’t build our church
- Messiah = life, teaching, death, resurrection | **Purchased by his blood**
- Built on the foundation of the Apostles’ teaching | with respect to Catholics...

Let’s go rapid-fire through some other biblical teaching on the nature of the church.

- What the church **IS**
- What the church **HAS**
- What the church **DOES**

I. The Church Is

1. Spiritual and physical | Romans 8:10-11
 - a. ¹⁰ Now if Christ is in [y'all], the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in [y'all], then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring [y'all's] mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in [y'all].
2. Visible and invisible | Hebrews 12:1 *Great cloud of witnesses...*
3. Local and universal | 1 Cor. 7:17, 12:28
 - a. 7:17 *...as is my practice in all the churches*
 - b. 12:28 *...he has appointed for the church apostles, prophets, teachers, various gifts...*
4. Gathered and scattered | Heb. 10:25, 1 Pet. 1:1
 - a. Heb. 12:25 *don't neglect gathering together* (Ekklesia = assembly)
 - b. 1 Pet. 1:1 *to the churches dispersed all over Asia Minor*
5. Imperfect and sanctified | 2 Cor. 3:18, 1 Cor. 6:11
 - a. 2 Cor. 3:18 *being transformed from one degree of glory to another*
 - b. 1 Cor. 6:11 *But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified...*
 - c. Note: this is why we need renewal.

II. The Church Has

1. Leaders and members | Phil. 1:2, Heb. 13:17
 - a. On leaders: *Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus: To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - i. Two formal roles of leadership: elder/overseer and deacon
 - ii. Many other informal roles
 - b. On members: *Obey your leaders and submit to them, since they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*
2. A message and mission | Matthew 28:18-20
 - a. The great commission is the purpose of the church. Preach Jesus, make disciples, build for the kingdom.
3. Resources and resistance | John 15:18
 - a. Resources: gifted people, money or vehicles, **Jesus himself** and Holy Spirit
 - b. Resistance: *If they hate you, remember they hated me first.* Forces of Hades

III. The Church Does

1. Worship God
 - a. Yes, all of life is worship, but gathered worship is important
 - b. Ordinances of baptism and communion
2. Make disciples
 - a. Spiritual disciplines: formation | Corrective discipline when necessary
 - i. *Another reason for official membership*
3. Kingdom work | Evangelism, mercy ministry, justice, hospitality

Remember: all of this is only possible because of Jesus' death and resurrection!

Selah

Our Church Is

1. Seeking renewal
 - a. Launched out of a crisis, walked through any number of crisis over the years
 - b. 2020 - Merger, new outside hire, pandemic hit, social unrest
 - c. 2021 - Removal 2 leaders, pain and hurt that resulted, conflict that followed
2. Experiencing transition | Two key transitions
 - a. Derrick -
 - b. Barkers -
 - c. Come to the family gathering in May to be able to hear more
3. Blessed by members and leaders | Two key things to be thankful for
 - a. Jason - sabbatical for June-August
 - b. Renewal team - Bring forward and pray over them
4. Inviting participation | There is a place for you
 - a.

What You Can Do

1. Pray – take out your phone right now and schedule a time
2. Grow – pursue godliness, know your spiritual gifts
3. Tithe – heart of sacrifice, some give generously but others minimally
 - a. We do not believe that tithe 10% is a “law,” but a great baseline
4. Serve – children’s ministry, parking, production
5. Lead – small groups, kids min teacher,

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16 ¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵“But you,” he asked them, “who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus responded, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he gave the disciples orders to tell no one that he was the Messiah.