

## “I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH”

**Matthew 16:18** *“I will build My church.”*

Christ’s planned construction of His church deserves careful attention.

### I. “I”

Jesus Christ spoke of His own role in the establishment of the church. It was something He was personally involved in.

A. **Matthew 16:13-18** *“When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?’ So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered and said, ‘**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

Jesus’ identity as Christ and God’s Son is the foundation of the church.

B. **Matthew 10:32-33** *“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”*

Whether one agrees or disagrees with this is paramount.

C. **Isaiah 9:6-7** *“Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

His identity is emphasized extensively in many Scriptures.

## II. "WILL"

There was intent to establish the church. It was brought into effect with deliberation and forethought.

- A. **John 5:17** *"Jesus answered them, 'My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.'"*

The Father and Son have always been at work on their plan.

- B. **Titus 1:2** *"In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began."*

God's eternal plan centers on eternal life.

- C. **Ephesians 3:9-11** *"And to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the **church** to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, **according to the eternal purpose** which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

The church was always part of the plan, never an afterthought.

- D. **Matthew 18:15-17** *"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the **church**. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."*

Jesus so anticipated the establishment of the church that He gave instructions relative to spiritual discipline in the context of the church's involvement.

## III. "BUILD"

To build indicates a process of construction and implies materials used.

- A. **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15** *"The **house** of God... is the **church** of the living God."*

It is fitting to think of the church as God's house.

- B.** **Isaiah 2:2-3** *“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of Jehovah’s **house** shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah to the **house** of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem.”*

The establishment of Jehovah’s house was foretold in ancient prophecy.

- C.** **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:5-8** *“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as **living stones**, are being **built up a spiritual house**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a **chief cornerstone**, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.’ Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,’ and ‘A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.’ They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.”*

In the spiritual house that is the church, Christ is cornerstone – the piece that squares the entire foundation, and believers are living stones – the bricks making up the walls.

- D.** **Ephesians 2:19-22** *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the **household** of God, having been **built** on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief **cornerstone**, in whom the whole **building**, being fitted together, grows into a holy **temple** in the Lord, in whom you also are being **built** together for a **dwelling place** of God in the Spirit.”*

While Christ is cornerstone in this house, this temple, the rest of the foundation is made of the apostles and prophets. Jesus meant for their work to be the basis of the church.

- E. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:9-17** *"You are God's **building**. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the **foundation**, and another **builds** on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the **temple** of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."*

While Jesus did build the church, it is still being built as we who are in it convert the lost and bring them in. Sometimes, our work does not endure, but it does not mean we won't be saved.

#### IV. "MY"

- A. **Acts 20:28** *"The church of God... He purchased with His own blood."*

The church belongs to Christ. He paid for it and He paid the highest price.

- B. **Colossians 1:18** *"He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."*

The church is the body and Christ is the head. A body with two heads is a mutant; it is not healthy and will not live.

- C. **Ephesians 5:23-24** *“Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body... The church is subject to Christ.”*

Christ is both Head and Savior of the church. The church must answer to Him.

- D. **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:5** *“For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.”*

The church proclaims and promotes Christ, not its members.

## V. “CHURCH”

- A. **Ephesians 1:22-23** *“He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”*

Just as a body with two heads is unhealthy, so a head with more than one body likewise has a defect and cannot survive. There can be only one body, that is only one church.

- B. **Ephesians 4:4-6** *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

There must be as many bodies as there are Spirits, hopes, Lords, faiths, baptisms, and Gods; if there cannot be a plurality of these, then there must not be a plurality of churches.

- C. **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15** *“The church of the living God [is] the pillar and ground of the truth.”*

No other institution can lay claim to the description of being the foundation of truth. We don't need colleges, schools, camps, retreats, missionary societies, and other organizations assuming this work.

- D. **Psalms 127:1** *“Unless Jehovah builds the house, They labor in vain who build it.”*

**Matthew 15:13** *“Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.”*

Every manmade church, every denomination, every religious institution that is not the church will meet a destructive end.

## CONCLUSION

- A. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:13** *“By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.”*

Entrance into the body, which is the church, happens by baptism.

- B. **Galatians 3:27** *“As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”*

Not coincidentally, entrance into Christ is through the same means.