

"The Church That Christ Built!" (Student Copy)

Matthew 16:13-18 (KJV)

August 26, 2026

****Eight questions biblically answered that explain the foundation, formation, and function of the Lord's church past, present, and future.***

Matthew 16:13–17 (KJV 1900) — 13) When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14) And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Introduction: Exploring the Nature of the Church and The Church and The Teachings of Jesus:

Many people may be surprised to learn that the "*teachings of Jesus*" Himself contain little mention of the Church. The only two references in the Gospels are both found in *Matthew 16:18*** where the phrase "***Upon this rock I will build my church***" is found, and in ***Matthew 18:17***, when the instruction to "***Tell it to the church***" is given. In the second of these the reference might be to the Jewish synagogue, though the general context of ***Matthew 18*** seems to suggest the emergent Christian community.**

- 1. What does Jesus mean when he says, "***Upon this rock I will build my church***?"**

Matt 16:13–20 (KJV 1900); 1 Corinthians 10:1–4 (KJV 1900); Ephesians 2:19–22 (KJV 1900); John 1:42 (KJV 1900)

A crucial key point to understand: We must always remember that it is *Jesus* who declares, ***"I will build my church,"*** emphasizing His personal commitment rather than delegating the task to ***"humans"*** and establishing that the church is built on none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. What should we first know about the church?

A crucial key point to understand is that the church differs ***"fundamentally"*** from the kingdom—the church is described as a temple while the kingdom never is, and whereas the kingdom is ***"set up,"*** the church is ***"built up."*** These are distinct realities operating on different theological planes. The church is far more than a ***"social institution"*** and therefore must be defined in terms beyond the merely sociological. That, therefore, also means we must be cautious when implementing socially motivated activities and events sponsored by the church that do not promote its purpose.