

# The Person, The Project and The Power

The Church Series

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:18

## Introduction

Before we understand the church, we have to understand its commission, and especially the person who created the church. The church belongs to Jesus Christ. He owns it, lock, stock, and barrel.

Before we can ever understand our mission as a church, we must first see why the church was created.

### I. The person who owns the church

**Matthew 16:18a** I will build my church....

- A. The cost of purchasing the church
- B. The One who holds title to the church
  - 1. He is the message of the church
  - 2. He is the authority of the church
  - 3. He holds the key to the church's success

### II. The project called the church

**Matthew 16:18a** I will build my church....

- A. Jesus Christ is its designer
- B. Jesus Christ is its builder
- C. Jesus Christ is responsible for its progress
- C. Jesus Christ will sustain it

### III. The power of the church

**Matthew 16:18b** ...and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

- A. His church is empowered to overcome
- B. His church will defeat opposition
- C. His church will conquer every foe, including Satan

# What Is The Church?

## The Church Series

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:18b

### Introduction

When you ask most people about the church, they will point to a building here, a structure there, or perhaps, a cathedral in the distance. But these are not the church: rather they are symbols of the church. The church is the living, breathing men and women, filled with the Spirit of God, who come together to worship and go out to conquer.

### I. It is a living organism created by God Himself

***Ephesians 2:21, 4:16 NIV*** And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- A. It was given life at the new birth
- B. Its life is sustained by the Holy Spirit

### II. It is a purchased possession belonging to God

***1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV*** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

- A. We were purchased back from Satan's jurisdiction by Jesus on Calvary
- B. We belong totally to God
  - 1. We own nothing, we are simply stewards
  - 2. We have no rights, only privileges

### III. It is a powerful force given to achieving God's will

***Matthew 7:21 NIV*** Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the

kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

- A. The church can only be powerful when it does God's will
  - 1. Its ability to conquer lies in following God's will
  - 2. God empowers only those who do His will
- B. God recognizes as his own only those who do His will

## What Is Its Mission?

The Church Series

**Scripture:** Mark 16:15  
Matthew 28:19-20

1. Our responsibility to government
2. Our responsibility for government
- D. Principles of financial responsibility
  1. Stewardship
  2. Debt

### Introduction

The church can never achieve its mission if it is uninformed about the nature of its mission. Jesus gave two distinct commissions to the church. All other objectives are secondary to these two.

#### I. The church is to evangelize its world

**Mark 16:15 NIV** He said unto them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

- A. This is the prime directive
- B. How we are to evangelize our world
  1. By our way of life
  2. By our conduct
  3. By our testimony
- C. Specific targets for ministry in Reno
  1. Casino workers
  2. Students at UNR

#### II. The church is to teach Christian living

**Matthew 28:19-20** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you ....

- A. Principles of personal responsibility
  1. For one's own spiritual well being
  2. For one's own witness
- B. Principles of marital and familial responsibility
  1. Husband's and wife's roles and relationships
  2. Parent - child roles and relationships
  3. Priorities
    - a. God
    - b. Family
    - b. Church
- C. Principles of civic responsibility

# What Is Its Authority?

The Church Series

**Scripture:** Luke 10:19  
Matthew 10:1 NIV  
Romans 4:17b NIV

## Introduction

There is authority vested in God's Church. It is given by God Himself to enable the church to be victorious. The authority is complete and comprehensive. Through its authority, the church becomes capable of conquering its world.

### I. The authority vested in the church

**Luke 10:19a NIV** I have given you authority....

- A. Authority over evil spirits and disease  
**Matthew 10:1 NIV** He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.
- B. Authority over all of Satan's power  
**Luke 10:19 NIV** I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.
- C. Authority to act in faith  
**Romans 4:17b** ...and calls things that are not as though they were.

### II. The persons authorized to utilize this authority

**John 1:12 NIV** Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God....

- A. Men and women of faith  
**Hebrews 11:6a NIV** And without faith it is impossible to please God....
- B. Men and women of commitment  
**Job 14:15a** Though he slay me yet will I trust in him....
- C. Men and women of sacrifice

**Acts 20:23-24 NIV** I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me -- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

### III. The use of the church's authority

**Hebrews 11:33 NIV** ...who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised....

- A. Never used for personal gain -- Simon the sorcerer
- B. Used to point men to God
- C. Used to deliver men from Satan

# Who Are Its Members?

The Church Series

**Scripture:** Ephesians 5:30

## Introduction

How does one become a member of the church? Does it happen when a person signs a membership card? What are the qualifications for membership?

### I. The qualifications for membership

**John 3:3 NIV** In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of heaven."

- A. Sins must have been forgiven
- B. Must have experienced the new birth
- C. NO OTHER QUALIFICATIONS ARE REQUIRED

### II. The method of becoming a member

**Romans 10:9** That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

- A. Confessing our sins to God
- B. Placing our future in the hands of the risen Christ
- C. Accepting the Lordship of Christ

### III. The responsibilities of membership

**1 Corinthians 4:1-2** So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

- A. Live righteously as God enables you
- B. Live faithfully