

The Message Notes

Series: Biblical Human History 101

Message: *The Church and the Covenant*

Text: Matthew 16:18, 26:27-28

Pastor Keith (7 November 2021)



Matthew 16:18. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon **this rock** I will **build my church**, and all the **powers of hell** will **not conquer** it. (NLT)

Matthew 26:27. And he took a **cup of wine** and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "**Each of you drink** from it, **28.** For this is **my blood**, which **confirms** the covenant between **God and his people**, it is poured out as a **sacrifice to forgive the sins** of many. (NLT)

1. Jesus introduces the **church**: Matthew 16:16-18

- **Upon this Rock** – confession of Christ is your Lord by the Holy Spirit
- **I will build my Church** - an assembly of people called by God's Spirit to carry out His original plan
- **Invisible church** – God builds His church by calling a people from a people by His Spirit to assemble under His headship, Ephesians 1:22, 2 Timothy 2:19

"A **primary** flaw of the institutionalized church is the **indoctrination** of its members into the **customs** and **traditions** of the church instead of a **disciple relationship** with Christ." References: Mark 7:13, Matthew 7:21

2. Jesus **institutes** our **new covenant**: Matthew 26:27-28

Covenant Standard:

- **Mutual consent** – two or more parties mutually consent to unite as one and obligate themselves to obey the terms and conditions of the covenant.
- **New relationship** – a covenant puts the parties involved in a new form of relationship with respect to each other and others who are not part of the covenant
- **Irrevocable** – you cannot change your mind after you make a covenant. The only way out is death.
- **Modifications** – you can only change to better secure the original goals of the original covenant.

Church and Covenant - an assembly of people called by God's Spirit, **united** together by Christ's **covenant** with God the Father, which **obligates** the church to obey the terms of Christ's covenant with God, Exodus 24:7.

3. Jesus **declares** He has all **authority**: Matthew 28:18

“Jesus’ assertion to have **all authority** is the church’s **Declaration of Independence** from **sin, Satan, and an eternal judgment.**”

4. Jesus gives the **mission** of the church: Matthew 28:19-20

- **Command**: Go and **make disciples** of **all** nations, **baptize them, and teach them to obey.**

Obey versus Agreement

3 Steps of Discipleship:

- **Follow** your teacher – proximity
- **Become** like your teacher – mannerisms
- **Do** the works of your teacher – the ability

Disciples’ relationship with Christ: v20. “I am **with you always** even to the **end of the age.**” How is Christ with us? **Holy Spirit**, John 14:16-17!

“You **cannot** be a Christ follower if you are not **led** by His Spirit.”

“You live in a **constant** state of **awareness** of His **presence being with you** and **in you** by being **connected** with His **Spirit**, through **training** yourself by the **spiritual disciplines** of Christ.” I Timothy 4:7

“Training, not Trying”

Spiritual Discipline: Practicing something Jesus did **repeatedly** until you are able to do what Jesus did **by nature, not by effort.**

Characteristics of Christ:

- **Solitude** – quiet place with yourself and God, Mark 1:35
- **Simplify** – content with what you have, Luke 12:15

“Your greatest enemy will **not be** the devil but the desires you have for this world **crowds out** the **voice** of the Spirit, Mark 4:19.”

- **Sabbath** – rest, reflect, and rejoice:

Genesis 2:2. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. **3.** And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation. (NLT)