

**IT DOES MATTER WHAT YOU BELIEVE: THE CHURCH  
MATTHEW 16:13-21**

**The church. Matt. 16:13-21**

- The church consists of those who are **“called”** out of...  
Matt. 16:18; Acts 19:32, 39, 41; 2:1-13, 7-47; John 1:12; Acts 1:8
- The **foundation** is Jesus Christ. Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20-22; Acts 4:10-12; 1 Pet. 2:5-6; Is. 28:16
- The church **purchased** by Christ. Matt. 16:21; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 2:24-25; Rev. 5:9; Titus 2:14
- The **focus** of the church is Jesus Christ. Matt. 16:18; Col. 1:16-18; Eph. 1:22-23; Rev. 2:5; Matt. 6:10, 33
- The church is **empowered** by Christ. Matt. 16:18-19; Acts 1:8; 3:1-10; 1 John 4:4; Phil. 4:13

**The church—purpose.**

- For those who are a part of the **Body** of Christ. Matt. 16:13-16, 18; Acts 2:47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 4:32-35; 8:25-40; 10:14-48; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; Rom. 12:1-2; 6:16; 1 Cor. 12:1-31
- For those who are yet to **become** believers in our community, state, nation and world. Acts 1:8; 17:2-4; Luke 15:1-10; Matt. 9:35-38; Acts 2:47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7

**The church—our response. Matt. 16:13-17**

- I am willing to **commit** to a local church. Heb. 10:24-25; 13:1; 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 18:27; Rom. 16:1; Col. 4:10; Rom. 12:6-8
- I am **willing** to be a difference-maker within the local church. 1 Cor. 12:1-31; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; 2 Cor. 8:1-9; 9:7; Rom. 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11

“When it comes to my salvation, all I need is Jesus; after my salvation, everything is Jesus plus the church... When people preach that all you need is Jesus, they cut you and I off from one of the greatest sources of healing, which is the body of Christ. Don't go it alone - you won't make it.”

Josh McDowell

“Many churches of all persuasions are hiring research agencies to poll neighborhoods, asking what kind of church they prefer. Then the local churches design themselves to fit the desires of the people. True faith in God that demands selflessness is being replaced by trendy religion that serves the selfish.”

Billy Graham

“Hypocrites in the Church? Yes, and in the lodge and at the home. Don't hunt through the Church for a hypocrite. Go home and look in the mirror. Hypocrites? Yes. See that you make the number one less.”

Billy Sunday

“For years I thought my assignment or the Church's assignment was to articulate the Gospel and nothing more. Now I believe that if we don't support the verbal expression of the Gospel with physical demonstration of compassion, we are not imitating Jesus.”

Max Lucado

“A church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints.”

Pauline Phillips