

October 9, 2016

**LIVING WITH GOD VICTORIOUSLY
DOING LIFE TOGETHER (THE CHURCH)
Matthew 16:13-21**

The church (built by Christ). Matt. 16:13-21

- Christ is the **founder** of the church. Matt. 16:13-21
 - Recognize **Christ** as the founder. Matt. 16:13-17; 1:21-28; John 1:29; 2 Cor. 5:21
 - The price Christ **paid** for the church. Matt. 16:21; 26:54; John 1:29; Luke 24:26; Is. 53:1-12
 - The **purpose** Christ had and has for the church. Matt. 20:28; Acts 4:12; John 3:16-19
- The **foundation** of the church. 1 Cor. 3:10-11; Matt. 16:18; Acts 4:11-12; Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-7

Why we need the church family.

- Because it **proves** we are genuine believers. John 13:34-35; 1 Cor. 12:27; Gal. 3:28
- Because it **moves** us away from being self-centered. Gen. 2:18; 1 Cor. 12:25-27; Eph. 4:16; Rom. 12:4-5; 1 John 3:16
- Because it **aids** in our spiritual growth and development. Eph. 4:16; Heb. 3:13; John 13:34-35; 13:14; Rom. 12:10, 16; 13:8; 14:13; 15:7, 14; 1 Cor. 12:25; Eph. 4:2, 32; 5:21; Heb. 10:24-25
- Because we **share** in Christ's mission. Luke 24:46-48; Eph. 2:10

What are we to do?

- Are you willing to do **life** with other believers?
- Are you a part of a local church **family** of believers?
- Are you an attender or **member**?

The difference between being a church attender and a church member is commitment. Attenders are spectators from the sidelines; members get involved in the ministry. Attenders are consumers; members are contributors. Attenders want the benefits of a church without sharing the responsibility. They are like couples who want to live together without committing to a marriage.

Why is it important to join a local church family? Because it proves you are committed to your spiritual brothers and sisters in reality; not just in theory. God wants you to love real people, not ideal people. You can spend a lifetime searching for the perfect church, but you will never find it. You are called to love imperfect sinners, just as God does.

What On Earth Am I Here For?

Rick Warren