

October 21, 2018

**NEXT STEP WITH GOD: A PLACE TO BELONG (CHURCH)
MATTHEW 16:13-21**

Why the church? (It is the reflection of Jesus Christ to the world.) John 3:30; 12:21

- Reflection of His **love**. John 3:16; 13:35; 1 John 4:7-8, 19; Rom. 5:5
- Reflection of His **forgiveness**. Eph. 4:32; Matt. 18:21-22; Matt. 6:12; Luke 23:39
- Reflection of His **grace**. 1 Cor. 1:4-5; Eph. 2:8-9; Col. 3:1-4; 2 Pet. 3:18
- Reflection of being **salt** and light. Matt. 5:13-16
- Reflection of His compassion and **comfort**. Matt. 9:35-36; 25:35-42; Luke 10:30-37; John 11:43-44

Whose church is it? Matt. 16:13-21

- Jesus Christ is the **foundation** and founder. Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:10-11; Acts 4:11-12; Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-7
- Jesus Christ is the one who **paid** the price for the church. Matt. 16:21; John 1:29; Luke 24:26; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 2:24-25; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:17, 13-14
- Jesus Christ is the one who **built** the church and is in charge. Matt. 16:13; 28:18; 26:64; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22; 4:15

Why belong to a church?

- Because it **proves** that we are genuine believers. John 13:34-35; 1 Cor. 12:27; John 17:21; 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 **enhances** our spiritual growth and development. Eph. 4:16; Heb. 3:13; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:10, 16; 13:8; 14:13; 15:7, 14; 1 Cor. 12:25; Eph. 4:23; 5:21; Heb. 10:24-25
- Because it challenges us and encourages us to share in Christ's **mission**. Luke 24:46-48; Eph. 2:10