

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. Colossians 1:18

## ***'Called Out to Relationship'*** Matthew 16:13-20

16:13 *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"*

14 *They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."*

15 *"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"*

16 *Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

17 *Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18a And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church...*

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

19 *I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

20 *Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.*

### Additional Notes on the Church

What is the origin and meaning of the term 'Church'?

The word 'church' is translated from the Greek word *ekklesia*. The word is made of two terms, 'ek' means 'out from' (similar to our word 'exit') and *kaleo* which means 'called'. Together they mean 'called out' and 'assembled together'.

The New Testament uses 'ekklesia' in predominantly two ways. As the *universal* church it refers to all who have been born of the Spirit and placed in His Body. (Acts 20:28). As the *local* church it refers to a group of professed believers in one locality. (For example, the church at Jerusalem, Acts 8:1, 11:22; or the church at Ephesus, Acts 20:17.)

Dr. Robert Saucy, in his book The Church in God's Program points out *"The use of ekklesia in the New Testament is limited to the sense of the local and universal church. ... It is never used for a church building...nor to denote a particular denomination. The Church consists of those sanctified or set apart from the masses by the action of God in Christ."*

According to Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer in Major Bible Themes *The church is revealed in the New Testament to be the company of believers formed of both Jew and Gentile called out of the world and joined together in one living union by the baptism of the Spirit."*

The biblical intent is to build the universal church by developing local assemblies.

What is the Purpose of the Church?

The purpose of the church is to reflect the Glory of God in a fallen world.

In The Bride Chuck Swindol points to man's ultimate purpose being to glorify God. As the Westminster shorter catechism states - *'Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.'*

Some of the many verses that stress this priority for the people of God are:

1 Corinthians 10:31- *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

Ephesians 3:21- *to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Romans 15:5-6- *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

In his theological paper, *"The Mission of the Church"*, Dr. Saucy writes, *"All of God's works exist ultimately to ascribe glory to Him. The Glory of God is nothing less than the nature of God revealed in His creation and acts. To speak of God's goal for the church as His glory is simply to say that God intends to display Himself in and through His church."*

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