

Why I Believe – Lesson 6
Why I Believe there is only ONE church
Matthew 16:13-18
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show why I Believe there is only one church.

- Intro:
1. How many “churches” are in the world today?
 2. How many are in the Bible?
 - a. That’s the question we want to answer today.

I. What do the scriptures teach?

A. Christ has authority (**Mt 28:18**).

1. Having been given all authority from the Father, Christ alone had the right to be the Head of the church.
 - a. The church is His singular body of believers (**Eph 1:22-23, Col 1:18**).
2. Paul recognized Christ’s authority and encouraged Christians to do the same (**Col 3:17**).

B. Christ announced His church and no others (**Mt 16:18**).

1. The church is designed by Christ and bought by Christ (**Acts 20:28**).
2. In Peter’s gospel sermon who rebuked those who denied Christ and strove to put Him on the cross.
 - a. Luke records that they were pricked in the heart (**Acts 2:37**) and that 3,000 souls that day were baptized and added to the body of Christ (**Gal 3:26-27**).
 - b. Luke also records that records that great fear came upon the church when its members so how God disciplined its members (**Acts 5:11**).
 - i. There is no doubt the church was established in Christ’s time.

C. Members of the church existed in the time of the Apostles.

1. Christ spoke of the time being “fulfilled” (**Mk 1:15**) and that the kingdom was near to that generation.
 - a. Those to whom He spoke would see it before they died (**Mark 9:1**).
2. Paul taught that the church contained saints (**1 Cor 1:1-2**).
 - a. He also stated that the saints (members) in the church at Colossae were in “the kingdom of the Son of His Love” (**Col 1:13**).
 - b. If the kingdom had not yet been established the Paul spoke in error.

II. The church compared

A. Members

1. In the church of the Bible its members are those purchased with the blood of Christ (**Acts 20:28**).
 - a. In denominations its members are those who follow a particular plan written by men, baptism is not taught as being essential.
 - i. However the Bible teaches one is a part of Christ’s church, His body (**Eph 1:22-23**), when they are added to it at baptism (**Acts 2:37-38, Gal 3:26-27**).

B. The church and the Kingdom

1. Since the church and the kingdom are both made up of blood-purchased people (**Acts 20:28**), the church and the kingdom must be the same.
 - a. Since Christians who comprise the church were themselves placed into the kingdom (**Col 1:13-14**), the two must be the same.
 - b. **Matthew 16:18-19** – the terms church and kingdom are used interchangeable.

III. Lessons for us today.

A. There is only one.

1. Christ's purchased one church (**Acts 20:28**).
2. Christ has one body and one church (**Col 1:13-14**).
3. Those who follow the New Testament pattern for salvation are added to the body of Christ (the church) at baptism (**Gal 3:26-27**).
4. Hundreds of years, numerous writers, 66 books, only one church is mentioned, and no man established, the Son of God bought it with His own blood (**Acts 20:28b**)
5. There can only be ONE.

B. No other "church" provides what the church of the Bible supplies

1. No other church provides salvation, because no other church teaches God's plan.
2. No other church has proper worship, because no other church follows God's design for worship.
3. No other church contains Christians, because no other church was bought with the blood of Christ.

Application & Conclusion:

1. When searching for truth one must but aside feelings and the ideas of others and look at the evidence.
 - a. The Bible provides evidence for one church and one church only.
2. It's the church that man must have a part.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9