

Reasons Why 5  
Because Christ's Church Exists Today  
Matthew 16:13-18  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show how Christ's church exists today.

- Intro:
1. So many religious problems and errors could be resolved if mankind would realize that the church that Christ built does exist today.
  2. The Bible, as we will see, clearly reveals there is only Church and it began and belongs to Christ.

I. The Saved & the Church

A. What Jesus Promised.

1. Christ promised "my church" that is to say HIS church (**Mt 16:13-18**)
2. The original language in which the New Testament was written is called "Koine Greek".
  - a. This is a "dead" language.
  - b. Thus, the meaning of the words do not change.
  - c. It is not the same as the "common Greek" language that is used today.
3. In the "Koine Greek" language the word "church" literally means "to call out".
  - a. That from which people are called is the world (**1 Pt 2:9-10**)

B. What does the Bible call the saved?

1. In the N.T. the called people are often identified as "the body of Christ" (**Eph 1:22-23, Col 1:18**).
2. Christ's mission to save the lost was accomplished through His body.
  - a. His mission of saving the lost is now accomplished in His body, the church as the Savior's power to save is proclaimed by His body, the church (**Rom 1:16-17**)

C. The church on the earth today

1. Christ is the head of the church today (**Eph 1:22-23**), and He is the only head (**Col 1:18**).
2. How can Christ be the head of the church when He is in Heaven?

II. Biblical Clarification

A. A Will & Testament

1. The writer of Hebrews uses the illustration a will or testament.
2. Through this will or testament the deceased still has a measure of control of possessions that they had while they lived on earth.
  - a. Jesus is the mediator of the New Testament or the new covenant (**Heb 9:15**).

B. Claims of guidance from the Holy Spirit.

1. The purpose of the Holy Spirit in the time of the Apostles was to reveal all truth to them, not to be the head of the church (**John 16:7-13**).
  - a. While the Holy Spirit HAD a vital role, it is not the head of the church.
  - b. Christ was and still is the head of the church (*Col 1:18*).

2. The Head of the church is in heaven (**Eph 3:14**)
  - a. Through His Will & Covenant Christ has authority over the church & is the head of the church (**Heb 9:15-17**).

### III. What is Christ's church like?

#### A. Entrance into the church

1. The way into the body of Christ (the church) is the way of salvation (**Acts 16:17**).
2. Christ saves us from our sins (**Mt 1:21**) & adds us to the body of Christ (**Acts 2:47**).
3. As a result you will not find: a catechism, confession of faith, creeds or disciplines of men. The Lord's way of saving men are not found in such things.
  - a. Where in the N.T. do you read where the lost are told to "accept Jesus as your personal Savior and pray the sinner's prayer?"
  - b. Where in the N.T. do we find those who wanting to know what to do in order to be saved, were told "only believe" and "give your heart to Him?"
    - i. The Jailor was told to believe and then the faith producing word was preached to him (**Rom 10:17**). Belief alone was not enough.

#### B. Where do religious people go to learn about worship?

1. Christ tells us about praise that is acceptable to Him in worship (**Col 3:16**).
2. Other avenues (5 total) of worship directed by "the word of Christ" include keeping a memorial to the Son of God on the first day of the week (**Lk 22:19; Acts 20:7**).
  - a. Christ instruct to give "on the first day of the week" (**1 Cor 16:1-2**)
  - b. To pray (**1 Tim 3:15; 2:1-4**)
  - c. To preach (**Acts 20:7**)

### IV. Lessons for us today.

#### A. Does Christ's church exist today?

1. If we will allow Christ to be it's head then yes.
2. You cannot separate Christ from the church.

#### B. Salvation in the church

1. Spiritual blessings are only in the church (**Eph 1:3**)
2. The greatest being salvation, again only found in the church (**Eph 2:16**).

### Application & Conclusion:

1. Only in the church of which Christ is the head is there salvation.
  - a. **Romans 6:4, Galatians 3:26-27**
2. Therefore, let us endeavor to be a part of that church.
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