

The Church Found in the Bible

- Matthew 16:13-19 -

1. A _____ Established Upon A _____

- A. The church in the new covenant did **NOT** formulate its own doctrine or organize its own manner of admission or worship.
- B. What is said today by most people about the church?
- C. Jesus made a promise a church would be built...
 - 1. It did not begin in the O.T. It was prophesied there (**Isa 2:2-4; Dan 2:44; Joel 2:28-32**). The prophets wished to see it, but it did not come during their lifetime **1 Pet 1:9-11**
 - 2. It did not begin during the life of John the Baptist. (**Matt 3:1,2; 14:1-12**).
 - 3. It did not begin during the life of Jesus (**Mk 1:14,15**). Jesus promised to build it (**Mt 16:18**, "will build"), taught people how to live in it (**Matt 5-7**), but the church did not come during the life of Jesus
 - 4. Jesus said the church would...
 - (1) Come with _____ (**Mk 9:1**)
 - (2) Some would be alive when it came (_____)
 - (3) The ministry of the apostles would be to "all the nations" (**Lk 24:45-49**)
 - (4) Apostles would receive power (**Acts 1:8**)
 - (5) It was the commission of the apostles (**Matt 28:19,20; Acts 1:2-5**)...
- E. The church is not a building (**Acts 17:24**), does not establish a political agenda (**Jn 18:36**), is not a denomination (**Eph 4:4**)

2. Jesus' _____ and _____

- A. Nothing is violated as much as the N.T. command for unity in faith and practice... 33,830 separate religious bodies exist, (David Barrett's: World Religious Ency)
- B. The remedy is the acceptance of Jesus prayer and strategy in **Jn 17:23**...
Unity is _____ (**1 Cor 1:10**)
- C. Under the new covenant churches _____ each other based upon apostolic authority (**1 Thess 2:13,14**)
- D. All were supplied the same teaching (**1 Cor 4:17, 7:17**)
- E. They were "ordered" to follow those teachings (**1 Tim 3:14**)
- F. When people refused the sound doctrine and wanted it their way, unity was destroyed (**2 Tim 4:3,4**)...
- G. The confusion in religion today was not found in the New Testament, because people received apostolic authority.....

3. Can The _____ Today??

- A. If not, no religious group has the right to exist today. Interesting though how people today use the Bible and the N.T. church as reference points to support their views...
- B. Does the church today exist in the form of **John 15** - having one head and many bodies (i.e. Christ, the vine, and the churches as many branches)?
- C. If the covenant means today what it did then, the same could be said about the existence of the church, it can exist today...
- D. How that happens is the same way it first began under the new covenant. The key to the church's existence today is the same key to its beginning & existence when the new covenant was given... It is **THE SEED** (**Matt 13:10-23**)... **1 Pet 1:22-25**...
- E. Is the seed alive today? **Heb 4:12** and **1 Pet 1:23** say yes!