

We are in a mini-series entitled,

"The World, The Church And Me."

Last time together we noted that the world is:

- Satan's domain
- A system that is against God
- The true Christ-follower will struggle here

Today,

We will answer the question, "What Is The Church?"

I just want to make 3 points concerning this.

The origin of the Church is through Jesus Christ.



1. Jesus said He would build His church

Mt 16:13 *Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"*

v.14 *And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."*

v.15 *He *said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"*

Now, that's an important question for everyone.

As far as each individual is concerned, it doesn't matter what others say, it only matters what you say.

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

v.17 *And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.*

v.18 *"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.*

"rock" what you just said about Me!

Ie.

The fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, is what the Church is built upon.

The Apostle Paul said;

I Cor 3:11 *For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

As the old hymn says;
"My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus Christ, my righteousness,
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

That is the foundation of the Church and there is no other.

2. In the Church, we are all connected together.

The church is a body, it is the Body of Christ;
His representation upon the earth while He is in Heaven.

- We are individuals, but one.

I Cor 12:13 *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

v.14 *For the body is not one member, but many.*

v.15 *If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.*

v.16 *And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.*

v.17 *If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?*

v.18 *But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.*

It is God who has made us and not we ourselves. Therefore, He has made us as He sees fit.

Every body part is important, physically and spiritually.

Also:

- We share our emotions:

v.26 *And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

v.27 *Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.*

Ex.

If your head hurts, you don't want to go out

If you broke your arm, your whole body goes to the hospital

Why?

Because of connection.

Rom 12:15 *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.*

v.16 *Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.*

So what is the Church?

1. It is that which Christ is building
2. It is where we are all connected with each other

Thirdly;

3. It is where we are victorious in this life

Rom 8:1 *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

"condemnation" *katakrima* – penalty, adverse sentence

And why is this so?

v.2 *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*

"Law of the Spirit" is Freedom, which is contrary to the Law of Moses.

Law of Moses says you need Savior.

Law of the Spirit says the Savior has made you free

Also:

- We have the victory in Christ.

When our mortal body puts on immortality at the Rapture;

I Cor 15:55 *O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?*

v.57 *thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- Victory through Christ because of faith

I Jn 5:4 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*

So what is the Church?

1. It is that which Christ is building

2. It is where we are all connected with each other

3. It is where we are victorious in this life

Therefore;

Rom 8:35 *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

v.36 *Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."*

v.37 *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*

v.38 *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,*

v.39 *nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

(So you want to be in His Church)