

Matthew 16:18 Because of its builder

“And I also say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

Church = Singular in number

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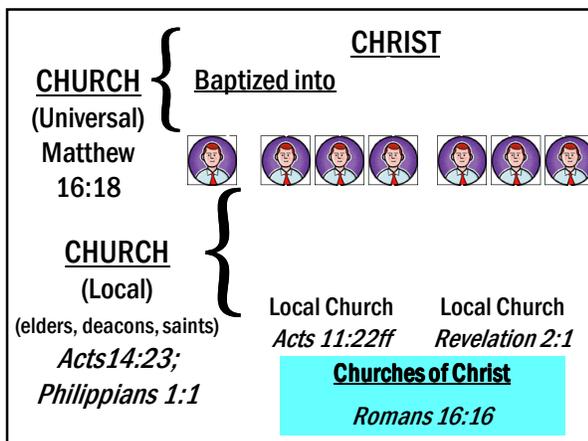
“Church” Defined

ekklesia: “to call out of” ... “the called out ones”

Body of the Saved
“Called out” of darkness by God, by the gospel
2 Thessalonians 2:14

An Assembly

- Israel, *Acts 7:38*
- Riot, *Acts 19:32, 41*
- Governmental body, *Acts 19:39*



“Precious” Defined

timios – “Held as of great price, i.e. precious: metaphorically, held in honor, esteemed, especially dear.” (Thayer)

- 1 Peter 1:19 Blood of Christ.
- 1 Peter 2:4 Christ rejected of men, precious with God.
- 2 Peter 1:4 Precious promises.
- Hebrews 13:4 Marriage
- Romans 12:10 Relation to other Christians.

“Precious” Defined

polutimos – “Very valuable, of great price.”
(Thayer)

1. Matthew 13:46 Pearl of great price.
2. John 12:1-7 Pound of ointment.
3. 1 Peter 1:7 Faith more precious than gold.

“Precious” Defined

“Of great value or high price – Precious jewels
“Highly esteemed or cherished –
A precious friend

Antonym: cheap (Webster)

The Church Is Precious

The church is precious because it is purchased by the blood of Christ. Acts 20:28

- ❖ Price determines value. cf. Matthew 13:46
- ❖ No higher price! cf. John 15:13
- For those NOT in the church, Christ shed His blood in vain!

The Church Is Precious

Blood purchased redemption. 1 Peter 1:18-19

- ❖ Man needs redemption.
 - Sin is presented as slavery and sinners as slaves. John 8:32-36; Romans 6:17,20; 2 Peter 2:19.
 - Deliverance from sin is freedom . Galatians 5:1.
- ❖ Redemption is “IN CHRIST.” Ephesians 1:7; Romans 3:24-25

For those NOT in the church, Christ shed His blood in vain!

The Church Is Precious

Blood purchased justification. Romans 3:20-26; 5:9

- ❖ Man needs justification ...
Freedom from condemnation. Romans 8:1
 - Cannot be justified by “law keeping.” Galatians 3:11
- For those NOT in the church, Christ shed His blood in vain!

The Church Is Precious

Blood purchased reconciliation. Ephesians 2:13-16

- ❖ Man needs reconciliation. cf. Isaiah 59:1-2
 - Man must be reconciled to be saved. cf. Romans 5:10
 - Reconciliation commanded. 2 Corinthians 5:10
- ❖ As the body is the church (Ephesians 1:22-23) and reconciliation is in the body, then reconciliation is possible ONLY in the church.
- For those NOT in the church, Christ shed His blood in vain!

The Church Is Precious

Blood purchased sanctification. Ephesians 5:25-26

❖ Man needs sanctification. Romans 6:19-22

Definition: "To purify by expiation, free from the guilt of sin" 1 Corinthians 6:11 (Thayer)

❖ Sanctified by "*washing of water with the word.*" Ephesians 5:26

- Saul of Tarsus. Acts 22:16; 9:18
- Baptism into his death. Romans 6:3-4

➤ For those NOT in the church, Christ shed His blood in vain!

The Church Is Precious

The church is the body of the saved Acts 2:47

❖ Those who are purchased by blood. Acts 20:28

- The Redeemed. 1 Peter 1:18-19
- The Justified. Romans 3:20-26
- The Reconciled. Ephesians 2:13-16
- The Sanctified. Ephesians 5:25-26

➤ For those NOT in the church, Christ shed His blood in vain!

The Church Is Precious

The precious church will be presented a "glorious" church. Ephesians 5:26-27

❖ "Metaphorically, a glorious Church, signifying the Church adorned in pure and splendid raiment as a bride (Ephesians 5:27)" (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

❖ "Figuratively equivalent to free from sin, (Ephesians 5:27)." (Thayer)

➤ Those NOT in the church, are NOT so honored. Christ shed His blood in vain!

Local Church: Precious

- ❖ We strive together. Philippians 1:27
- ❖ We rejoice and grieve. Romans 12:15
- ❖ We suffer and honor. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26
- ❖ We edify and correct. Galatians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 5:1
- ❖ Let us be thankful. Romans 1:8; etc.

Conclusion

❖ The Lord's church is "precious." Acts 20:28

❖ We must let the church be distinct as the church, so adorned as to glorify the head – even Christ.

- God gave His Son for it.
- The Lord of glory died for it.
- We must not bring its lofty mission down to serve the outward man, but rather we must keep it pure to serve the interest of heaven.