

II. Not Only Is Jesus The Rock On Which The Church Is Built, He Is The Builder Of The Church.

“...I will build my church;” (Matthew 16:18)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” (John 15:1-5)

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.” (Psalm 127:1)

“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6)

It is the people of the church that Christ uses to do His building. He has given to us authority. Notice the word “thee” in Matthew 16:19. “Thee” is referring to the church, not Peter. Notice the authority of the church in Matthew 18:18: “Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Jesus builds His church by giving the keys of the kingdom to the church: “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19). Keys are a symbol of authority and responsibility. Soulwinning is taking the keys of the Kingdom to sinners to see if they want them. This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” (Revelation 1:18)

Illustration: If you have keys to our church, you are probably in some position of authority or responsibility. You also have a responsibility of taking care of those keys and keeping the building secure. We as Christians have the authority of the Gospel and the responsibility of using it. Jesus builds His church through our Gospel efforts.

III. Jesus Christ Is The Head Of The Church.

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” (Ephesians 1:22,23)

“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” (Ephesians 5:23)

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” (Colossians 1:18)

Of all people, it was Peter who defined Christ clearly as the “Shepherd,” “Bishop,” and “Chief Shepherd.”

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.” (1 Peter 2:21-25)

“And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” (1 Peter 5:4)

It is Christ who loved the church and gave Himself for it: “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;” (Ephesians 5:25)