

A. The Origin of the Church

1. THE FIRST N/T CHURCH

Question: When was the Church first established?

a. Jesus Christ was the first to initiate the Church.

- There are people that believe that the church was started by John the Baptist.
- The church couldn't have started with John the Baptist, because Jesus is the founder of the Church and Jesus came after John the Baptist.
- Not only this, but John the Baptist's main ministry was to pave the way for the Lord.

***Acts 13:24-25** "When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. (25) And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose."*

- It was Jesus who foretells and promises that HE will establish the church.

***Matthew 16:18** "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

b. Here we have the first mention of the church in the Bible.

- 1) The church was a "Mystery" that was concealed in the O/T, but now Jesus begins to unveil and reveal and introduce the church. The church can only be birthed in the N/T.
- 2) The N/T (The New Covenant) takes place after the death and resurrection of Christ.

***Hebrews 12:24** "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling..."*

***Acts 20:28** "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."*

- It is clear that the church couldn't have been completely established before Calvary.
- It was on the Cross where Jesus shed His blood.

- 3) The N/T (The New Covenant) is completely revealed to men by the Spirit working through the Apostles.

***Ephesians 3:3-5** "How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, (4) Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) (5) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;"*

- c. While the promise of church was to be filled in the future, we acknowledge that Jesus was gathering together His disciples, and preparing them for the fulfilment of that day.

- 1) Jesus Calls out the 12 disciples.

Mark 3:14 “And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,”

- 2) Jesus Disciples them.

John 17:4 “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”

John 17:6 “I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.”

- 3) Jesus breaks bread with the 12 disciples. – Matthew 26:26-29

- This is where we see the transition from the Passover to the Lord’s Supper.
- Jesus initiated the Lord’s Supper and the church continues it. Acts 2:42.

- 4) Jesus gives the 12 disciples the great commission. – Matthew 28:19-20

- The marching order were given to His disciples to establish local churches.
- **This command is to be fulfilled after the Holy Ghost comes upon the disciples.**
Acts 1:8

- d. The Holy Spirit is the one who empowered the Church.

- **Technically**, the church had already existed, but they were waiting to be empowered and officially established.

Acts 1:13 “And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room...”

- The word “added” Acts 2:41 confirms this
- We see the first group of people saved after Pentecost and added to the church.

Acts 2:41 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

- To be added to a church would mean that the church already existed. The 120 believers were waiting in an upper room for the Holy Spirit.
- This would be the fulfilment of Matthew 16.

Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...”

- e. We are baptised by one Spirit into the body of Christ, which makes up the church.

1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

- This is how believers become members of the body –
- The church did not exist under the O/T. The Gentiles were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel. *Ephesus 2:12-13*
- It is through the blood of Christ and by the Spirit of God, that He brings together both Jew and Gentile.

Colossians 1:26-27 “Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: (27) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:”

f. The Lord gifted the church after His ascension

- The church could not have been completely functioning without spiritual gifts given.
- It was after Jesus ascended into Heaven that He gave gifts to men to strengthen the church.

Ephesians 4:7-8 “But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (8) Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”

- The gifts were given through the Spirit, and the Spirit was given in FULL measure after Jesus was glorified.

John 7:39 “... for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”

g. **In conclusion**, “The Church was “**Conceived**” with Christ, and “**Birthed**” at Pentecost.

- The Church was **Foretold** by Christ and **Fulfilled** in Christ through the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

2. THE BUILDER OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church...”

a. This passage of Scripture has been given different interpretations.

1) Some suggest that word “rock” refers to Peter’s confession.

Matthew 16:15-16 “He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? (16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

2) Others have submitted that the word “rock” refers to Jesus.

Matthew 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church...”

3) Another interpretation is that the word “rock” refers to Peter himself.

- **Albert Barnes supports this interpretation, and says...**

“This is the obvious meaning of the passage... “Thou art a rock.” Thou hast shown thyself firm, and suitable for the work of laying the foundation of the church. Upon thee will I build it.”

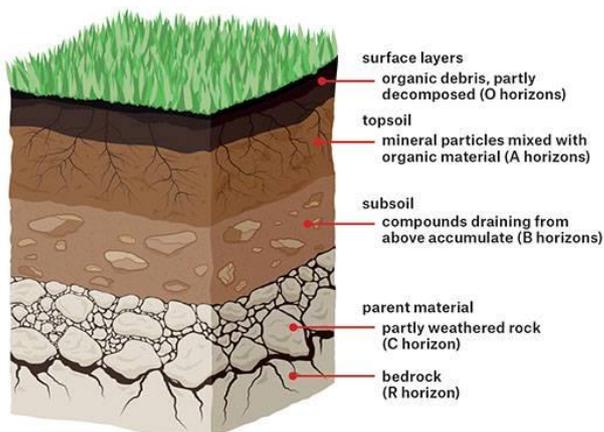
Albert Barnes continues to say “Had it not been that the Church of Rome has abused it, and applied it to what was never intended, no other interpretation would have been sought for.”

b. The church **was not** built upon Peter

- The Catholic Church has suggested the “The Rock” is referring to Peter and that Peter was the first Pope of the Catholic Church.

1) Notice the definition of words used in Matthew 16:18

Matthew 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock...”



- The name “Peter” in Greek is “Petros”, which means “little stone, or a piece of rock, or a pebble”

- The word “Rock” in Greek is “Petra”, which means a mass of rock. A bedrock.

- Notice what Paul said

1 Corinthians 3:11 “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

- From Genesis to Revelation we see the Lord Jesus referred to as the rock.

Psalms 61:2 “From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”

1 Corinthians 10:4 “And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

- Peter himself declared Jesus being the CHIEF corner stone.

Acts 4:11-12 “This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. (12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”



➤ **Morgan Says.**

Remember, He (Jesus) was talking to Jews. If we trace the figurative use of the word rock through Hebrew Scriptures, we find that it is never used symbolically of man, but always of God. So here at Caesarea Philippi, it is not upon Peter that the Church is built. Jesus did not trifle with figures of speech. He took up their old Hebrew illustration — rock, always the symbol of Deity — and said, “Upon God Himself — Christ, the Son of the living God — I will build my church.”

2) Notice the Language used in Matthew 16:18.

Matthew 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church;”

- The word “this” is referring to Jesus Himself.
- Jesus uses similar language in **John 2:19-21** when he was talking with the Pharisees.

John 2:19-21 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. (20) Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? (21) But he spake of the temple of his body.”

- The religious rulers thought Jesus was referring to the physical Temple.

c. Jesus Christ is the founder of the Church.

1) Jesus is the builder of the Church – “*I will build ...*”

- The uniqueness of this church that Jesus would build, is that it will be made up of Jews and Gentiles.

Galatians 3:28 “*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

2) Jesus is the owner of the Church – “*I will build my Church ...*”

3) Jesus is the one who adds to the Church

Acts 2:47 “... the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

Acts 5:14 “*And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)*”

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 “*I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. (7) So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.*

Note: *We are not responsible for the increase.*

d. ***It is important to note*** that Peter and the other apostles played a significant part in building the Lord’s church.

Ephesians 2:19-20 “*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”*

1) The apostles were chosen by the Lord and were called the "apostles of Christ".

1 Peter 1:1 “*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ...*”

2) The Apostles were used as instruments of the Lord to help build His Church.

- It was the Lord who gifted and enabled them to help build His Church.

Ephesians 4:11-12 “*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”*

e. These chosen Apostles were given three major responsibilities:

<p>1) To lay the foundation of the church.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Apostles' Calling <i>Ephesians 2:20</i></p>	<p><i>1 Corinthians 3:9-10</i> “For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, <i>ye are</i> God's building. (10) According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.”</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Paul laid down the foundation by preaching of Jesus Christ.</p>
<p>2) To receive, write, teach God's Word.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Apostles' Doctrine <i>Acts 2:41</i></p>	<p><i>Ephesians 3:4-5</i> “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) (5) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”</p>
<p>3) To confirm Word of God through signs, wonders, and miracles.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Apostolic Gifts <i>2 Corinthians 12:12</i></p>	<p><i>2 Corinthians 12:12</i> “Truly <u>the signs of an apostle</u> were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.”</p> <p><i>Hebrews 2:3-4</i> “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was <u>confirmed unto us</u> by them that heard him; (4) God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”</p>

Note: The foundation of the church (universal church) was laid in the first century, so then the office of an Apostle is no longer needed, as they had fulfilled their calling.

Paul Said:

2 Timothy 4:7 “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*”

f. Other Terms used:

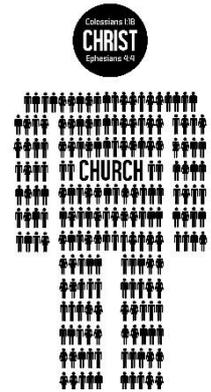
ONE HEAD. ONE BODY.

1) Jesus is the Head of the Church

Ephesians 5:23 “...Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.”

Colossians 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church...”

- Jesus has full authority and rules over His church.



2) Jesus is the Chief Shepherd of the Church

1 Peter 5:3-4 “Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. (4) And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

- Jesus is the Chief Shepherd of all the under Shepherds and the flock of God.
- Jesus is the one who leads the flock of God.

Peter Said

1 Peter 2:25 “For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”

David said:

Psalms 23:1 “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

It is clear that the church is built on Jesus Christ

3. THE PROMISE TO THE CHURCH

Matthew 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

- Jesus gives a firm promise to the church. “**The gates of Hell shall not prevail against it**”. Hell is a place of punishment, which depicts death, and therefore the church cannot be threatened with death. Persecution has only helped the church grow and flourish.”

“We Christians are like bamboo, when you cut us down, we grow back taller and stronger.”

Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

- **Note:** However, if a church falls and backslides and does not repent, then

Jesus is the only one who can remove the light from that church.

Revelation 2:5 *“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”*

- This is not referring to individual Christians losing the Holy Spirit.
- This is referring to God's judgment upon the church as a whole. God can bring an end to the Ephesian church.
- In other words, the power and presence of God within that church will be taken away.
- This is a great reflection of the church's influence. Without a head the church is dead.
- This is similar to **1 Samuel 4:21**. Eli's grandson was called "...Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken ..." (which signified the presence of God).

g. Notice the keys given to the Disciples.

Matthew 16:19 *“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...”*

- “... I will give ...” indicates to us that this is something that will happen in the future.
- In other words, this is a promise to be fulfilled in the future.
- Jesus gave Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, NOT Heaven.
- Jesus is the only one who has those keys.

Revelation 1:18 *“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.”*

- Peter and the disciples were given the keys/authority to the door of faith by preaching the Gospel that leads to the Kingdom of Heaven. **John 3:3-16**
- The disciples were also given the keys/authority to make decisions based on God's word. This includes church discipline. **Matthew 18:15-20**

Matthew 16:19 *“... and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

This leads us to the purpose of the Church...

4. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

- The Church is God's spiritual body used for the fulfilment of the Great Commission and for the maturing of the saints. – **Matthew 28:19-20, Jude 1:21-23**

a. FOUR PRINCIPLES OF THE CHURCH

1) Praise, Love, and Glorify God – **1 Corinthians 10:31**

1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

- To sing and worship God with Godly music – **Ephesians 5:19**
- To serve God with a pure heart – **Colossians 3:22-23**
- To seek God in Prayer for wisdom to walk in His ways – **James 1:5**

1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

2) Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ – **1 Thessalonians 1:8**

1 Thessalonians 1:8 “For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to Godward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.”

- To share the Good News to friends and family – **Mark 5:19, 1 Peter 3:15**
- To be a witness in the community – **Romans 1:8**
- To send the light worldwide – **Acts 1:8**

3) Preparing to Grow in Grace – **2 Peter 3:18**

2 Peter 3:18 “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

- To teach and equip disciples of Jesus Christ – **Ephesians 4:11-14, 2 Timothy 2:2**
- To maintain a personal walk with God and bear fruit – **John 15:8**
- To mature in the faith and strive to live a holy life – **Romans 12:1-2**

4) Passion to Love and Serve Others – **Galatians 5:13**

Galatians 5:13 “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”

- To do good unto others – **Galatians 6:10**
- To serve one another – **Galatians 5:13-17, 1 Peter 4:8-10**
- To endeavour to keep the unity – **Ephesians 4:1-3**

b. The ministry of Church discipline

1) The AIM for Church discipline – *1 Corinthians 5:6-8*

- To remove the spreading influence of sin which corrupts the church.
- To protect other believers and purify the church. *1 Corinthians 15:33*
- To restore the erring brother. *2 Corinthians 2:5-11*

2) The ATTITUDE of Church Discipline – *Galatians 6:1-3*

- Meekness – Church Discipline is one of the saddest practices within the church.
- Boldness – Church Discipline is one of the hardest practices within the church. A Stand against sin must take place. *Titus 1:13*
- Patience – We must give room for the sinful brother to repent. *2 Thessalonians 3:9-15*
- Love – We must truly forgive the repentant brother. *2 Corinthians 2:5-11*
- Honesty – Practiced with no partiality. *1 Timothy 5:21*

3) The ACTION of Church Discipline

i. Withdraw = Do not associate with.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.”

ii. Have no company = Have no fellowship with that person.

2 Thessalonians 3:14 “And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.”

1 Corinthians 5:11 “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”

iii. Let them to be like a heathen = Treat them like unsaved people.

- Heathens/unsaved people are not part of the body of Christ.

Matthew 18:17 “And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”

iv. Hand them over to Satan = Outside of God’s House is dangerous ground. Like a bird that wanders from her nest. It is a place where “the sin unto death” can be committed. 1 John 5.

1 Corinthians 5:5 “To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

4) The ACCUSED of Church Discipline

- The Bible mentions several kinds of people who must be church disciplined. Some of them do overlap.

- i. An accused elder – *1 Timothy 5:19-20*
 - Two or three witnesses need to be involved and if the accusations have been verified, then the church must publicly rebuke the elder.

- ii. An offensive brother – *Matthew 18:15-20*
 - The steps include private rebuke. If they do not listen, then we are to involve other brothers and if they are still stubborn, then the whole church must be involved.
 - If the person is still unrepentant, the church then must decide to cut off both spiritual and social fellowship with the individual, until they repent.

- iii. An unruly brother – *2 Thessalonians 3:6*
 - Specific sins found in *2 Thessalonians 3:6-7, 14-15*
 - Idleness and not willing to work.
 - Taking advantage of others.
 - Unruly and disobedient to the Word of God.

 - **Note:** This is a brother who is not walking in the ways of the Word. There is a consistent sign of rebellion.
 - They are also lazy and not working and taking advantage of others.

- iv. The immoral brother – *1 Corinthians 5*
 - Specific sins found in *1 Corinthians 5:11*
 - Fornicators = Sexual immorality, addicted to Pornography etc.
 - Covetous = A strong desire for that which is forbidden.
 - Idolaters = Partaking in idol worship and feasts.
 - Railers = Abusive and slanderous words. *Psalms 101:5*
 - Drunkards = Addicted and controlled by alcoholic substances.
 - Extortioners = To Steal by violence / take advantage of others.

- v. People who introduce false teachings – *Titus 1:10-16*
 - When false teachers creep into the church, they must be rebuked severely. The church must be warned.
 - It is also people who are trouble makers, and ask foolish and non-genuine questions – *Titus 3:8-11*
 - People who cause divisions over worthless and unprofitable things.

➤ Jesus gave Himself for the church for the following reasons:

Ephesians 5:25b “... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”

Ephesians 5:26-27 “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, (27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

- i. Sanctify and cleanse it by Word of God.
- ii. Present it to himself a glorious church,

- NO SPOT
- NO WRINKLE
- BE HOLY
- WITHOUT BLEMISH

Next week we will look at the “Ordinances of the Church”