

## FUNDAMENTAL FACTS

### Introduction:

1. The word “church” comes from the Greek word *ecclesia* (ἐκκλησία) which means, “those who are called out of” or “those who are summoned.”
2. An effective way to learn the meaning of a biblical word or concept is to observe how it is used throughout Scripture.

### I. The Church Is Built by Jesus (Matthew 16: 18)

- A. Jesus said, “*I will build my church.*”
- B. This teaches us that the church is built by Christ.
  1. He is the architect of the church (Hebrews 3: 3-4).
  2. He was prophesied to be the builder of the church (Zech. 6: 12-13).
  3. Thus, the church is God’s building (1 Cor. 3: 9).

### II. The Church Is Built upon Jesus (Matthew 16: 18)

- A. Jesus said, “*Upon this rock I will build my church.*”
- B. The “rock” Jesus mentions is the fact of His own divine nature.
  1. Peter had just confessed the deity of Jesus (vs. 16).
  2. This fact is the basis of salvation (John 8: 24).
- C. Jesus is the foundation of the church!
  1. He was prophesied so to be (Isa. 28: 16; Psalm 118: 22-23).
  2. Jesus applied that prophecy to Himself (Matt. 21: 42-44).
  3. The apostles taught it (Acts 4: 11-12; Rom. 9: 32-33; 1 Cor. 3: 11; 1 Pet. 2: 4-8).

### III. The Church Is the Kingdom of Jesus (Matthew 16: 19)

- A. Jesus said, “*I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.*”
- B. Thus, the church and the kingdom are the same institution.
  1. There were people in the kingdom of Christ in the first century (Col. 1: 13; 4: 11; 1 Thes. 2: 12; 2 Thes. 1: 5; Heb. 12: 28; Rev. 1: 9).
  2. The kingdom came into existence with power on the day of Pentecost (Mark 9: 1; Luke 24: 49; Ac. 1: 4-8; 2: 1-4).

### IV. The Church Is Guided by the Doctrine of Jesus (Matthew 16: 19)

- A. Jesus said, “*Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven...*”
- B. Literally, Jesus said, “Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall have already been bound in heaven.”
- C. Jesus doctrine would be revealed to and taught by His apostles.
  1. This promise was not given to Peter alone (Matt. 18: 18; John 20: 23).
  2. The Holy Spirit would guide them in this work (John 14: 16-17, 26; 15: 26-27; 16: 13-15).
- D. By teaching the doctrine of Christ they were teaching the authoritative law for the church.
  1. It is called the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11).
  2. It is called the apostles’ doctrine (Acts 2: 42).
  3. It is the law for Christ’s church (Eph. 2: 19-22).

### V. The Church Will Overcome Death (Matthew 16: 18)

- A. Jesus said, “*The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”
- B. Death will not have victory over the church of Christ! (Cf. Acts 2: 24, 31; 1 Cor. 15: 3-4, 20, 22-26, 53-57; Daniel 2: 44; 7: 14; Luke 1: 33; Hebrews 12: 28)