

Outline – June 12, 2022

Matthew 16:13-18; John 15:4-12

Acts 2:41-43

How To Have Certainty In Uncertain Times

So What Is Church? What Is The Church?

- I. **The priority of Jesus (To build His church)**
  - A. That people may know God the Father
  - B. That people may know God the Son
  - C. In doing so have eternal life
  - D. In doing so be a part of His Kingdom
  - E. To be a part of something based on grace and truth
    1. Bigger than us
    2. With purpose, mission, meaning
- II. **What is the church?**
  - A. A group of believers
    1. Ekklesia (Out of darkness into light)
  - B. A movement to glorify God, to proclaim eternal life in Jesus
  - C. A. body of believers
    1. Different roles
    2. Different skills
    3. Different styles
  - D. An army
    1. Fighting battles
    2. Gaining territory
  - E. An oasis of grace and truth
- III. **The power and the problem**
  - A. What empowers us
    1. Spirit of God (Acts 2; John 16)
    2. Word of God (Our authority)
    3. Salvation in the Son of God
    4. The worship and glorifying of God
    5. The message given from God's people
  - B. The people of God (Strengths and weaknesses)
  - C. The disciples
    1. Thomas – Doubter
    2. Judas – Looking for a better deal
    3. Peter – Had no filter
    4. Paul – Zeal
    5. John – Young, steady
  - D. Disciples today struggle with same challenges

**IV. How do we do this “by the book”? What does scripture prioritize?**

- A. Abiding in Jesus
  - 1. Loving Him
  - 2. Encountering Him
  - 3. Serving Him
  - 4. Vine and branch
  - 5. Knowing Him – making Him known
- B. Apostles teaching
  - 1. His deity
  - 2. His creation
  - 3. His miracles
  - 4. His cross
  - 5. His resurrection
  - 6. His return
  - 7. Our faith and repentance
- C. Fellowship – based on love
  - 1. Our fellowship impacts how we relate to God
  - 2. Giving, helping, encouraging, connecting
- D. Bring Him glory
  - 1. Love one another
  - 2. Worship together
  - 3. Do not forsake the assembly
- E. Prayer
  - 1. Talking to God
- F. Breaking bread
- G. Serving, witnessing, Great Commission

**V. Attacks on the biblical church**

**(Outward)**

- A. Political, legal
- B. Cultural attacks
- C. Apostate naysayers
- D. Attacks from religious groups
- E. Wolves (in sheep’s clothing)

**(Inward)**

- F. Doctrines of demons (false teaching)
- G. Lukewarm apathy
- H. Love grown cold
- I. Contempt
- J. Abandonment

**VI. What do the attacks produce in the fellowship?**

- A. Division, desertion, disconnection, depression
- B. What does this look like?

1. Some leave because they were never saved, born again, redeemed
2. Some allowed unforgiveness to evolve into bitterness
3. Drifted away
4. Live in darkness
5. Idolatry takes over
6. Unresolved hurt creates cynicism
7. Confusion
8. Forget "It's not about me"
9. Not willing to adapt, grow, experience God fresh and new
10. Lost the vision of their purpose, priority, person they want to be

**VII. So, what is our mission? What do we do?**

- A. We offer the free gift of eternal life found in Messiah
- B. We offer purpose, hope, for today and tomorrow
- C. We offer answers to life's questions on origin, meaning, morality and destiny
- D. We change the world one heart at a time
- E. Bring grace and truth to those searching, seeking, and suffering
- F. Live life abundantly
- G. To experience the worship and glory of God (Feeling a sense of awe)
- H. To provide a place of hope and acceptance
- I. To gain knowledge of Messiah
- J. To be a part of His family

**VIII. To know our identity**

- A. Adopted as children of God
- B. Being a part of the body of Messiah
- C. To be on a team that is undefeated
- D. To fulfill mission impossible
- E. To be a part of the family of God

**Brings Certainty In An Uncertain World**