

“The Origin of the Church”

Matthew 16:13-20

Introduction: If we are to understand the church and its function, we must go back to the start of the church. The first mention of the church came from our Saviour’s lips in Matthew 16:18. From this point, the word “church” is used 78 more times and the word “churches” 36 times. Apparently the church, or as Jesus titled it “my church”, is a distinct class of people (I Corinthians 10:32). Although the church was not seen nor mentioned in the Old Testament, it is prominent in the New Testament and is even considered a separate dispensation. Notice a few basics of the church.

1. The Definition of the Church
 - a. Strong’s- “an assembly of Christians gathered for worship in a religious meeting”
 - b. Webster’s- “The collective body of Christians, or of those who profess to believe in Christ, and acknowledge him to be the Savior of mankind.”
2. The Distinction of the Church- Jesus is declaring that the church is something new and distinct. It is different from the tabernacle and the temple.
3. The Deed of the Church- Who will own the church? Certainly, the deed belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ as He titled it, “my church”. The “church” does not belong to some hierarchy or denomination, but it belongs to Jesus Christ.
4. The Development of the Church- The Lord said that He would “build” this church. Jesus made a promise that He would strengthen and build up this establishment.
5. The Devotion to the Church- Our Lord made a commitment to build His church. It should be noticed that church is not plural, but singular. He is only obligated to one church.

Body: Once the Lord established the church, what were their practices? In the book of Acts, we see the first church birthed and practicing what all churches should practice. The location is Jerusalem and the time is after the Pentecost. Our Lord has empowered the church and given them a great command in Acts 1:8. Now, with their resources available, it is their responsibility to carry forth the admonition of the Lord. Notice their:

- I. Salvation 2:37-39
 - A. Came by Preaching v. 37- “when they heard *this*”
 - B. Came by Pricking v. 37- “they were pricked in their heart”
 - C. Came by Penance v. 38- “Repent”
 - D. Came by Promise v. 39- “the promise is unto you”
- II. Submersion 2:38- “be baptized”
 - A. It was a Personal Act- “every one of you”
 - B. It was a Plunging Act- “baptized” (means to immerse or submerge)
 - C. It was a Proclaimed Act- “in the name of Jesus Christ” Matthew 28:19
- III. Submission 2:40-41- “gladly received his word were baptized”

- IV. Steadfastness 2:42- “they continued stedfastly”
- V. Social Life 2:42- “and fellowship”
- VI. Supper 2:42- “in breaking of bread”
- VII. Supplication 2:42- “and in prayers”
- VIII. Similarity 2:44- “had all things common”
- IX. Support 2:45- “sold their possessions...and parted them”
- X. Services 2:46- “continuing daily with one accord in the temple”
- XI. Shouting 2:47- “Praising God”
- XII. Swaying 2:47- “having favour with all the people”

Conclusion: Certainly, a church that has these characteristics will be a growing church. As we see at the conclusion of the description of the first church established, the Lord is adding to the church daily (Acts 2:47). God has blessed, and will continue to bless His church as they follow Him and His Word.