

Matthew 16:13-20

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood

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did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ."

Understanding the Church

Defining the Church

- ❖ A building set apart for christian worship
- ❖ The leadership of the church
- ❖ A body of christian believers holding the same creed, observing the same rites, and acknowledging the same authority; a denomination

The church defined Biblically

- ❖ “Church” - ekklesia (the called out)
- ❖ **Deu 9:10** - “...on the day of the assembly”
- ❖ **Acts 19:32, 39, 41** - referring to a mob

How the word church is used

- ❖ **The Universal church** (Mat 16:13-18; Heb 12:18-23)
- ❖ **The Local church** (1Co 1:2; Gal 1:1-2)
- ❖ Differences between the two

Children of God

- ❖ **Exo 19:5-6** - Being God's children is conditional
- ❖ Israel's flawed thinking (**Luk 3:8; Jer 7:4**)
- ❖ Abraham's true descendants (**Gal 3**)

