

# Building a Church 101

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## INTRODUCTION

- A. Illustration about Russian architect and twelve-story apartment, Encyclopedia of 15, 000 Illustrations, #11262.
- B. Architects must use their greatest wisdom and skill when building a building or embarrassment will result.
- C. The greatest care should also be shown when building a church.
  - 1. “Unless the LORD builds a house, They labor in vain who build it” (Ps. 127:1).
  - 2. Jesus built the church using the greatest wisdom and care. Let’s examine that wisdom and care.

## JESUS BUILT THE CHURCH HIMSELF

- A. Jesus promised to build his church (Mt. 16:18).
  - 1. The apostles would not build the church — Jesus himself would do so.
  - 2. The church would not belong to a man--Jesus said it would be his church.
- B. Many churches have been founded by man.
  - 1. Some examples of man-made churches:
    - a. John Wesley founded the Methodist Church.
    - b. Joseph Smith founded the Mormon Church.
    - c. John Calvin founded the Presbyterian Church.
  - 2. Any church founded by man cannot be the church Jesus established.
  - 3. Man does not have the right to establish his own church.
    - a. Jesus said that he would establish the church.
    - b. Any attempt by man to establish a church is a slap in the face to Jesus. It’s a slap in the face to Jesus, because man is saying that he can do a better job that what Jesus did.
- C. Since Jesus built the church, it belongs to him.
  - 1. Notice that Jesus referred to the church as “my church.”
  - 2. Paul referred to the “churches of Christ” (Rom. 16:16).
  - 3. Jesus paid for the church with his own blood (Acts 20:28).
    - a. Jesus had to pay for the church with his very blood.
    - b. The church, therefore, needs to be important to us.
      - 1) So many men have given their lives for this country — we honor those men and this country for the sacrifice they made.
      - 2) Since Jesus gave his lifeblood for the church, we ought to reverence him and the church for which he died.
        - a) Since Jesus died for the church, the church is nothing to treat with contempt.
        - b) We need to support the church with every ounce of our being.
- D. Jesus only promised to build one church.
  - 1. He referred to it as “my church,” singular rather than plural.
  - 2. The New Testament elsewhere teaches that there is only one church.
    - a. “There is one body” (Eph. 4:4).
    - b. We “are one body in Christ” (Rom. 12:5).
    - c. We “are one body” (1 Cor. 12:12).
    - d. The church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18).
  - 3. All the division that exists religiously cannot be pleasing to God, for he built only one church.
- E. Because Jesus built the church and paid for it with his blood, he is its head.
  - 1. The New Testament teaches that Jesus is the head of the church.

- a. "He is the head of the body, the church" (Col. 1:18).
  - b. Christ is the head (Eph. 4:15).
  - c. "Christ is the head of the church" (Eph. 5:23).
2. Since Jesus is the head of the church, he should determine the church's behavior.
    - a. Since Jesus is the head of the church, we ought to have the music he wants, not the music I want.
    - b. Since Jesus is the head of the church, we ought to have the church organized the way he wants, not the way I want.
    - c. Since Jesus is the head of the church, we ought to give women the role he wants, not the role I want.
- F. Are we honoring Jesus as the head of the church?

## **THE CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED UPON JESUS AS THE FOUNDATION**

- A. Jesus promised to build the church upon a firm foundation (Mt. 16:13-19).
1. Jesus came and asked his disciples what people were saying about him.
    - a. The apostles told Jesus what they had heard people say.
      - 1) The people of his day sensed the kingdom was at hand.
      - 2) The people said they thought Jesus was a figure they expected to return before the coming kingdom.
    - b. But, Jesus wanted to know what the apostles thought about him.
      - 1) Peter stands and says, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
      - 2) Jesus blessed Peter and makes Peter a promise.
  2. Jesus promised Peter that he would build his church on that rock, the rock of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God.
- B. The New Testament teaches that the church was established upon Jesus.
1. "No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11).
  2. "Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20).
  3. Peter called Jesus the "stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone" (Acts 4:11).
- C. "The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord."

## **THE CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED IN JERUSALEM**

- A. The OT prophesied that the church would be built in Jerusalem.
1. "Out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Is. 2:3).
  2. The Lord's house would be built in Jerusalem (Zech. 1:16).
- B. Jesus told his disciples that it was necessary that repentance and remission of sins be preached in his name beginning at Jerusalem (Lk. 24:47).
- C. On the day of Pentecost repentance and remission of sins was preached in Jerusalem.
1. In Jerusalem were dwelling devout Jews (Acts 2:5).
  2. Peter stood and told the crowd they had crucified the Messiah (Acts 2:36).
    - a. They cried out, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).
    - b. Peter told them to "Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).

## **THE CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST**

- A. The prophecies stated that the church would be established in the latter days (Is. 2:2-4; Mic. 4:1-2).
- B. Daniel prophesied that God's kingdom would be established in the days of the Roman Empire (Dan. 2:44).

- C. When John the Baptist began his ministry, he began proclaiming that the kingdom of God was at hand (Mt. 3: 1-3).
- D. Jesus, too, began his ministry by preaching that God's kingdom was about to be established.
  - 1. After John was imprisoned, Jesus began proclaiming, "The kingdom of God is at hand" (Mk. 1:15).
  - 2. Jesus promised to build his church (Mt. 16:18).
  - 3. Jesus told his disciples that some would not die until they had seen the kingdom of God come (Mk. 9:1).
- E. The time of Pentecost fits the prophecies made about the church.
  - 1. Isaiah prophesied that many nations would flow into the church (Is. 2:2) — At Pentecost, Jews were in Jerusalem "from every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5).
  - 2. Daniel prophesied that the church would be established "in the last days" (Dan. 2:44). Peter used Joel's prophecy to refer to those days as "the last days" (Acts 2:17).
  - 3. Zechariah prophesied that the church would be established in Jerusalem (Zech. 1:16) — The events of Pentecost took place in Jerusalem.
  - 4. These events would have taken place during the time of the Roman Empire, just as Daniel prophesied.
- F. After Pentecost, the church was considered established.
  - 1. The Lord added to their number those being saved (Acts 2:47) — Their number refers to the church.
  - 2. Peter said that the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles "at the beginning" (Acts 1 1:15).

## **CONCLUSION**

- A. Jesus built a wonderful church for his disciples.
- B. Are you a member of that church?