



**The Church ... Hell
Can't Win; The
Church Can't Lose**

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

November 22, 2020

*Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. – Mt. 16:17-18*

Christ's Church ... Matthew 16:16-18

1. The Church's _____ — "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."
2. The Church's _____ — "Upon this rock ..."
3. The Church's _____ — "The Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."
4. The Church's _____ — "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

Why Can't Hell Win?

- I. Because of _____ Jesus Is
Cp. John 1:2,3; 10:30; Mark 2:7; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 2:5-8
- II. Because of our _____ with the Living God
Cp. John 1:11-12; Gal. 3:26; Romans 8:17
- III. Because of our _____
Cp. Matt. 22:38-40; 28:18-20
- IV. Because of His _____
Cp. Numbers 23:19; Joshua 21:45; 23:14; 1 Cor. 1:20

Personal Relationship	Believer's Baptism	Covenant Membership	Spiritual Growth	Serve
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Date



Date



Date



Ongoing



Ongoing

Covenant Membership . . .

As a covenant member, I will grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

(2 Pet. 3:18; Lk. 6:40; Gal. 4:19; 1 John 3:2)

- by practicing the habits for personal spiritual growth
- by encouraging fellow believers to grow in likeness to Christ
- by engaging in disciple-making relationships

As a covenant member, I will maintain the unity of our church.

(Eph. 4:3; Phil. 2:2; Rom. 15:5; Heb. 13:17)

- by loving one another
- by celebrating our diversity
- by following our leaders

As a covenant member, I will serve in the ministry of our church.

(1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 4:11-12; Mk. 10:43-45)

- by being equipped to serve
- by discovering my spiritual gifts and investing my unique God-given design
- by demonstrating a servant's heart

As a covenant member, I will build the witness of our church to reflect His glory.

(Heb. 10:23-25; Rom. 15:7; Phil. 1:27; 2 Cor. 9:11)

- by attending and worshipping faithfully and by praying for our church growth
- by inviting unchurched to attend and welcoming all who come
- **by living and giving generously**



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Christ's Church ... Matthew 16:16-18

1. The Church's **Testimony** — "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."
2. The Church's **Foundation** — "Upon this rock I will build my church."
3. The Church's **Assurance** — "The Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."
4. The Church's **Authority** — "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

Why Can't Hell Win?

- I. Because of **Who** Jesus Is
Cp. John 1:2,3; 10:30; Mark 2:7; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 2:5-8
- II. Because of our **Relationship** with the Living God
Cp. John 1:11-12; Gal. 3:26; Romans 8:17
- III. Because of our **Commission**
Cp. Matt. 22:38-40; 28:18-20
- IV. Because of His **Promise**
Cp. Numbers 23:19; Joshua 21:45; 23:14; 1 Cor. 1:20

Personal Relationship	Believer's Baptism	Covenant Membership	Spiritual Growth	Serve
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Ongoing



Ongoing

Truth for Life

For the week of November 22, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This weekend we were reminded God's emphasis upon the church. As you look back, what experiences in His church have been most impactful in your life? How has the church assisted you to grow in your relationship with Christ? How have you seen God use the church (its people) to make a difference in your world?

Any negative experiences? Why do you think there have been negative experiences? Did you see God redeem any of those bad experiences? What happened?

2. Read back through Matthew 16:16-20. Whose "Church" is this anyway? Who is responsible to grow the church? Based upon that analogy of "the gates of hell," is the church designed to function in an offensive or defensive position? How are we to do that? What are we doing well? What do we need to work on?

As an individual who makes up the body mentioned above, answer the last 3 questions personally, relating to your role and effectiveness?

3. As followers of Christ and members of the church, we all have a unique position to play on God's team. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 gives further details and insights into how an effective team functions. As you read this passage, what are some of the things that catch your attention in regard to the various roles we play?

Can you think of ways you've benefited from others playing their role?

Can you think of any examples of how the team (aka the body of believers) might be hindered when someone isn't willing to play their role?

4. Read through the passage (Ephesians 4:1-6) and identify the following ...
 - According to verse 1, what are we to do?
 - According to verse 2, what character qualities enable us to do it?
 - According to verse 3, what trait is essential?
 - According to verses 4-6, identify the "Ones" and discuss how each is critical to accomplish the task of verse 1.