The Church is God’s Invention

Text—Matt. 16: 18; Acts 20: 28

Introduction

1. Read Matt. 16: 18
	* + 1. “I will build my church”
			2. Always God’s plan to have a place of worship
			3. Men believe they can do better and God would approve.
				1. Modern times call for modern changes
				2. Need to adjust to attract younger members.
				3. God’s word hasn’t change
2. Read Acts 20: 28
	* + 1. “Purchased with his own blood.”
			2. Died on the cross for his church
			3. How many men can say the same thing?
3. Two views of the church—Man vs. God
4. Man’s View of The Church
5. Denominations
	* + 1. Jesus’ Time
				1. Sadducees vs. Pharisees

Sad, U See

Fair, I See

* + - * 1. The Way

A “sect of the Jews”

Paul defends—Acts 24: 10-14

* + - * 1. Divisions in Corinth—1 Cor. 1: 11-15
			1. Today
				1. Catholics
				2. Non-Catholics: Reformation
				3. Restoration—C of C, D of C, Christian church
				4. J. W.s, Mormons, et al.
			2. All claim to worship same God
				1. To Ephesians, Eph. 4: 4-6
				2. To Corinthians—1 Cor. 1: 10; 4: 6
1. Men Pleasers—Style of Worship
	* + 1. Service
				1. Songs

Contemporary

Hand clapping, toe tapping

Rock band

* + - * 1. Sermons

Pep Rally

Motivational Speeches

Positive Preaching

Krispy Kream preaching

Feel good—no guilt of sin

* + - * 1. Collection

No passing the plate

No guilting people

Gift shop—T-shirts, post cards, CDs

Pancake breakfasts, Casino nights, Rummage sales

Something for my money

* + - * 1. Gal. 1: 10, “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”
				2. Rom. 14: 17, “for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
			1. Social Gospel
				1. Social as in Social media

Make friends

Business contacts

More of a club

* + - * 1. Social as in Social Services

Counselors—addiction, grief, etc.

Exercise Classes

Help Wanted

* + - 1. Attendance
				1. Once a week

Sunday Morning when everyone is there.

Stamp that ticket

* + - * 1. Twice a year?

C and E Christians

Communion twice a year

Christmas and Easter

* + - * 1. Gospel Meeting?! 6 days???
				2. Church Directory not Book of Life
				3. God = **24/7/365**
			1. Heb. 10: 24-25,” And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **25**not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another,* and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
			2. Phil. 3: 17-19
1. Closed on Sunday?
	* + 1. Christmas on Sunday—(2016, Falls on Sunday)
				1. Eve Services sufficient
				2. Special services prior

Putting Christ back into Christmas?

As long as it’s not on Sunday

* + - 1. Football Game
				1. Notre Dame
				2. Superbowl
				3. Compromise?
			2. Lack of knowledge—Hos. 4: 6

**“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee…”**

1. God’s View of The Church
2. We are God’s People
	* + 1. The Assembly—**EKKLESIA**= **EK**—“out of” and **KLESIS**—“a calling” (**KALEO**, “to call”) **{Vine’s}**
3. Congregation = People 🡪 Christians
4. Ps. 149: 1, “Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song,
*And* His praise in the assembly of saints.”
5. Heb. 12: 23, “to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.”
6. 2 Thess. 2: 14, “to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
	* + 1. The Body—**SOMA =** Used metaphorically as “body of Christ” with reference to the…
				1. Whole church—Eph. 1: 23; Col. 1: 18, 22, 24
				2. Local church—1 Cor. 12: 27
7. We are God’s Building—1 Cor. 3: 9
	* + 1. Built by Jesus—Matt. 16: 18
				1. One church,
				2. Not many—Eph. 4: 5
			2. Bought by blood of Christ—Acts 20: 28
			3. Foundation laid—1 Cor. 3: 10-11
			4. Framed together—Eph. 2: 20-22
			5. Christ = Chief Cornerstone—1 Pet. 2: 5-7
8. We are God’s Laborers
	* + 1. Members work together to grow.
				1. Laborers—Matt. 9: 36-38
				2. Planters—1 Cor. 3: 6-8
			2. We are not an audience
				1. We don’t sit and watch a performance.
				2. We are participants

Sing—Eph. 5: 19

Pray—Matt. 6: 6

Give—2 Cor. 9: 7

Partake—1 Cor. 11: 26

Follow along—Acts 17: 11

1. We are God’s Temple—1 Cor. 3: 16-17
	* + 1. A Priesthood—**HIERATEUMA** = a body of priests, consisting of all believers, the whole church (not a special order from among them)
				1. 1 Pet. 2: 5—“a holy priesthood”
				2. 1 Pet. 2: 9—“a royal priesthood”
			2. The Saints—**HAGIOS =** as used of believers, it designates all such and is not applied merely to persons of exceptional holiness, or those who, having died, were characterized by exceptional actions of saintliness.
				1. 2 Thess. 1: 10—“in his saints”
				2. Jude 14—“the holy ones”

Conclusion

 1 Cor. 1: 25, “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

**Are you a member of God’s church?**