



SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Monday April 12, 2021

Scripture: Matt. 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 Cor. 10:17

TITLE: What Is the Church?

What is the Church? Is it a building? Is it an institution? Is it a clever Ponzi scheme? Who is in charge? Is it the Pope? Is it a denominational president? Why does the Church exist? These are the questions we will answer this week as we pursue spiritual fitness.

The church has caused a lot of confusion for people. There are different denominations, different service types, different buildings and experiences. So today, we want to answer the question: What is the Church? Well, according to the Bible, it is not a building but instead a people.

In Matthew 16, Jesus said, [“I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.” \(Matt. 16:18b, NLT\)](#) It’s encouraging to know in a cancel-culture that the powers of Hell cannot cancel or conquer the growth and continuation of the church.

But what is the Church? In Ephesians 5, Paul tells us that Jesus gave himself up for the Church because He loved her. The church isn’t a building but a people. But what people? Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:13, it’s all who believe in Jesus Christ. Paul writes, [“Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.”](#)

You see, it doesn’t matter who you are. It doesn’t matter what you’ve done. It doesn’t matter who you know. It doesn’t matter what skin color you have. It doesn’t matter how much money you have or give away. The Church is made up of people saved by grace through faith, through the saving One - Jesus Christ.

And this is important to remember. Though many people meet in church buildings, the Church, properly defined, is the body of Christ. That’s why Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10, [“And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body.” \(1 Cor. 10:17\)](#)

Non-believers are not the Church. They are welcome to attend a church service, but they are not the Church. The Church is made up of every believer, both dead and alive. So let’s get together and celebrate this miracle – this family - we’re part of.

So here’s my challenge for you today: connect with both your local body, if you have one, and with us here on GoTandem.

Someone said the Church is not something you go to; it’s a family you belong to. So connect and reach out to someone in your local church. If possible, get coffee or a meal. Maybe it’s a brief phone call, Facetime, or a series of text messages. But reach out to your local body of believers.

And then connect with each other here: What's one thing you've been learning about God? How has it impacted you? We'd love to know and interact here together.

The Church is the Bride of Christ. The Church is family. You belong. You are valued. So let's connect and win the day together.