

WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT THE CHURCH?

(Matthew 16:18)

Many professing Christians care less about the Lord's church, or worse, do not care at all about the church because they don't understand the invaluable esteem and glorious calling God has placed upon the church. As pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, to many Christians, *"the word church has the sound of something infinitely commonplace, more or less indifferent and superfluous, that does not make their heart beat faster; something with which a sense of boredom is too often associated."* Do you have such indifferent and apathetic attitude towards the church? Or do you view the church as God Himself views His church? Reflecting upon Jesus' conversation with Peter and His disciples, let's consider three compelling reasons why we should care about the church of the Lord.

1. Because it is Jesus Himself who _____ the church.

When Jesus said, *"I will build My church,"* this means that He is the founder and the builder of His church (Matt.16:18). He built His church upon the foundation of Peter's inspired confession about His identity as the Messiah and the Son of the Living God. (Matt.16:16). This divinely revealed confession of Peter is the bedrock of the very life and existence of the church as affirmed by the apostles themselves and the trustworthy church leaders throughout history (1 Cor. 3:11; 10:4; Acts 4:10-12).

2. Because it is Jesus Himself who _____ the church.

When Jesus said, *"I will build My church,"* this means that the church is the exclusive and beloved possession of Christ (Matt. 16:18). Christ so loved the church that He redeemed her with His own precious blood through His death on the Cross (Matt. 16:21-23; 1 Pet.1:18-19; John 10:14-15; Acts 20:28).

3. Because it is Jesus Himself who _____ the church.

When Jesus said, *"I will build My church,"* this means that Christ seeks, calls, gathers, nurtures and preserves His Church which He promises to give eternal life (Ezek.34:11-15; Jn.10:14-16). Our Lord Jesus also promises that His church will be invincible and that His church would never be overpowered by any threat or foe. In His own words, *"even the gates of Hades shall not prevail against the church"* (Matt. 16:18). As the Founder, Redeemer and Preserver of His church, Jesus guarantees our victory over the power of death itself (1 Cor. 15:54-57; John 10:28-29; 6:39-40).
