

BUILDING FOR ETERNAL IMPACT PRT 1:

REDISCOVERING CHURCH

Matthew 16:13 And coming into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked His disciples, saying, Who do men say Me to be, the Son of Man? 14 And they said, Some say, John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. 15 He said to them, But who do you say I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 Jesus answered and said to him, You are blessed, Simon, son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal it to you, but My Father in Heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

I am excited to commence our journey of becoming **KINGDOM BUILDERS**. If you were not there last week, we unveiled our theme for 2026: **KINGDOM BUILDERS**.

Unless you understand what you are asked to do, you might not put your heart into it, and for us to rise to become kingdom builders, we need to fully understand the following three elements:

- What are we building
- Why are we building
- How are we going to build
- This morning, I am going to introduce the new series that will help us take a deep dive into the subject of kingdom builders.
- The title of our series we will be dealing with is **BUILDING FOR ETERNAL IMPACT PRT 1**.
- There are many things we do that have minimal or no bearing on eternity. I am of the view that anything you do must be done with a perspective of eternity.
- When you take a long-term view on matters, you are more likely to make wise decisions than when you take a short-term view.
- It goes without saying when it comes to having a perspective of eternity on life issues.
- So when we talk about kingdom building, we are talking about getting involved in something that has eternal implications for humanity.
- When one talks about building something with eternal implications, there is nothing that gets close to the institution called the church.
- To kick start this series, I want to talk about **REDISCOVERING THE CHURCH**. When we talk about building for eternal impact, we must develop an accurate perspective of the church.
- In an intimate conversation between Jesus and His disciples, Jesus reveals to them what He intended to do on earth.

Matthew 16: 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

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- After Peter had made the great confession in which, with the help of the Holy Spirit, he was able to declare the deity of Christ and Lordship, Jesus pronounces that He is going to build His church.
- It goes without saying that the church must be of eternal value that Christ had to take the full responsibility of building it.

No one has the authority to build the church other than Christ Himself

- As we embark on the journey to build God's kingdom, it cannot be outside of delegated authority from the master builder, Christ Himself.
- The church belongs to Christ, she is His bride, and she belongs to Him. This changes the way we build the church because you're getting involved with someone's bride.
- Jesus looks at Peter and calls out His name, as if to remind him that the church belonged to Him and Peter needed to be cautious as he got involved.
- The church is composed of special people called out to relate to God through Christ, the mediator. These are people that Jesus had to die for so that they can become part of the church.
- The church is different from the world because it is an extension of Jesus, the bridegroom. That is why the church cannot be built along the patterns of the world.
- Jesus is both the builder and the foundation of the church.
- He proclaims this when He said, *"Upon this rock I will build my church"*.
- When we talk about the church, we are not talking about brick and mortar but rather people's lives. The apostle Peter uses the metaphor of God's building in reference to God's people.

1 Peter 2:5 (ESV) you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- James 4:7-10
- Genesis 12:2-
- Building work takes time in nature, and it is even so in the spirit. The church of Jesus Christ: the people of God, are work in progress.
- It is Christ who provides for the needs of the church. Only Christ can supply all your needs. Don't look to man for your provision – only Christ can satisfy.
- The church that Jesus is building has eternal implications. The world can offer you a lot of beautiful things, but the world can never give you what the church gives you.
- You must aspire to engage yourself in something that lasts forever – the church touches eternity.
- We commit ourselves to many things on this earth, but how about committing ourselves to the institution called the church?

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- Church is not perfect, but the one thing you need is the church. The church was never a man-made idea – the church is God’s idea, even when it is imperfect.
- It is through the church that God expresses His love to humanity. The love of God was made evident when He allowed His only Son to die on the cross to save humanity.
- The church is the only institution with delegated authority to present the good news of salvation.
- God created the church to be His mouthpiece. God chose the church to be His feet and hands.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- When the church is well-resourced, more people will come to know the Lord.
- When the church actively partners with Christ, the master builder, communities will get to know peace and joy.
- God intends to use the church to display His splendor and glory both to the physical and spiritual world.
- The church is supposed to be the closest thing to heaven when we are here on earth. It must be a place where God’s glory is openly displayed.

Ephesians 3:10 His purpose was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to the eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord

- God uses the church to showcase His glory and wisdom in its various ways.
- It is through the church that the world will get to know the nature of God. Again, no institution can reflect God like the church.
- To build the Kingdom of God, believers must have a renewed mind regarding the church because the church is the vehicle that God uses to assert dominion on earth.
- When the church works, a nation will work, when the church works, families will work, and when the church works, communities are healed and restored.
- God uses the church to edify and build up His children.
- Whether we admit it or not, we are what we are because of the church. The church is present when you are born, the church is present when you are sick, the church is present when you get married, and the church is present when you die.
- Yes, she might not do it perfectly all the time, but no one can say I have never seen the church in my life.

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- The church trains you for life. Many people will tell you that my ability to relate with people was taught to them by the church.
- The church has been at the forefront of re-parenting many people. The church has been at the forefront of teaching on financial, marital, and relational stewardship.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV) 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

- When the church works well, you will find well-trained people in action and serving their communities.
- This means that the church plays a major role in all of life, and we cannot afford to have a failed church.

Psalm 122:1 I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the LLORD

Psalm 84:10 For better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

Psalm 42:4 These things come to mind as I pour out my soul: how I walked with the multitude, leading the festive procession to the house of God with shouts of joy and praise.

Psalm 27:4 One thing I have asked of the LORD; this is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and seek Him in His temple.