

Matthew 16:13-19

A. The Confession and Conviction of Peter

1. Who is Jesus to the world?

“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’”
Matthew 16:13-14 (NIV)

2. Who is Jesus to His disciples?

“‘But what about you?’ He asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ 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.’”
Matthew 16:15-16 (NIV)

a. Peter’s confession saved his soul.

b. Peter’s confession laid the foundation of Christ’s church.

3. Who is the One Who draws His disciples?

“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.’” Matthew 16:17 (NIV)

a. The Spirit drew Peter to conviction.

b. The Spirit drew Peter to regeneration.

B. What Is the Church?

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church.” Matthew 16:18a (NIV)

1. Christ’s ‘ekklesia’ (called out) is singular.

2. What is the difference between a church gathering and a town hall gathering?

a. It is Christ that calls the church together.
“I will build My church.” Jesus Christ

b. It is Christ that dwells within the church gathering.

“For where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

“God is the object of worship, and His mission becomes the object of the church. Therefore, God’s church, the local assembly, gathers together to worship and to pool its resources in order to carry out the mission of God Himself.”

-Preacher’s Outline and Sermon Bible

3. Christ sustains His church.

“And the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”
Matthew 16:18b (NIV)

4. Christ handed over the keys.

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
Matthew 16:19 (NIV)

“He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.’” Mark 16:15-16 (NIV)

C. Does the Church Still Matter?

1. The church still matters when the church acts like the church.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

2. The church still matters when disciples act like disciples.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35 (NIV)

3. The church still matters because the world needs it to matter.

“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
Matthew 13:47-50 (NIV)

Bottom Line:

The church will always matter because the church matters to God.

To begin a relationship with Jesus...

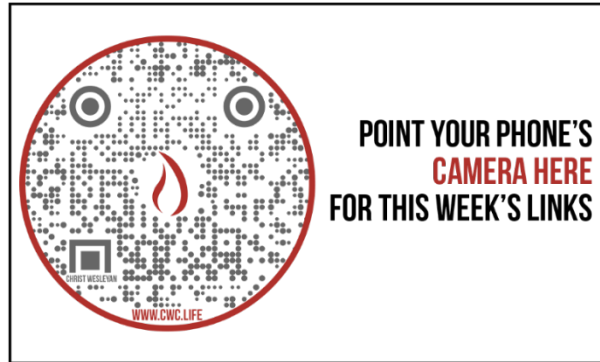
Text: Jesus to 570-273-0088

Next Sunday: Disillusioned:

Week 2: The Building

Milton Campus: Pastor Mike Sweigard

Sunbury Campus: Pastor Branden Mestach



*** (Last week was the start of our new fiscal year)**

Giving & Attendance Update

Giving last Sunday: 80% of goal

Giving year to date: 80.0% of goal

Attendance Easter Weekend: 2,869

Salvations to date: 0 | Baptisms to date: 0

Upcoming Happenings:

April 7 – Membership class 12:30p

April 11-13 – MCS Presents: Seussical the Musical!

May 4 – Rend Collective @ CWC

May 5 – Local Church Conference 6p

May 19 – Annual Church Celebration! 2:30p

Notetakers are History Makers

2023 Year in Review Stats (Barna Group)

Percentage of Americans have a positive view on:

Jesus Christ: 71%

Spirituality: 65%

The Bible: 63%

Christianity: 57%

Churches in your community: 47%

Christian pastors/priests: 44%

Evangelicals: 26%

Celebrity pastors: 17%

Megachurches: 16%

**Conclusion: Openness to Jesus and the Bible are not the problem, the church is.*

Among non-believers, what do they hope for in a Christian? (Top 5)

Listens without judgement: 39%

Is honest about their doubts: 33%

Does not force a conclusion: 31%

Cares about them as a person: 30%

Allows others to draw their own conclusions: 29%

**Conclusion: Let's do better in our conversations with unchurched people.*

Generation Z (born between 1997-2010) and their spirituality:

How motivated are you to continue learning about Jesus?

Very motivated: 52%

Somewhat motivated: 25%

Not at all: 10%

**Conclusion: The future of the church has enormous possibility to reverse the trend of current church decline.*

What is the spiritual openness in the U.S?

I believe in God or a higher power: 77%

I would like to grow spiritually: 74%

I am more open to God now than before the pandemic: 44%

**Conclusion: The world/current culture is open to church.*