

1 The Churches Foundation

Series: What is The Church

Matthew 16:18

January 7, 2018

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

There are Three Tensions we discover in the building of The Church!

I. **There is Tension** in The Construction of The Church (**18a**) I will build

➤ **There is Tension** over Who is the Founding Person of The Church?

Is it Peter as some believe even today, or is it Jesus the one who Died for your sins?

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter (*Petros*), and on this rock (*Petra*)

Simon was renamed Peter by Jesus **John 1:42** And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

Cephas = Little Stone in Aramaic

Peter (*Petros*) = Little Stone in Greek

Rock (*Petra*) = Large Stone in Greek

Ephesians 2:20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

The Cornerstone set the foundation and squared the building!

Isaiah 28:16 So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious **cornerstone for a sure foundation**; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.

The Church is Constructed by Jesus on Everyone who Confesses Him as Lord and Savior!

- **There is Tension** from the **False Prophets** who preach a different gospel!

Galatians 1:8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel **other than** the one we preached to you, let them be **under God's curse!**

2 Peter 2:1-3 But **false prophets also arose** among the people, just as there will be **false teachers among you**, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

II. **There is Tension in The **Control** of The Church **(18b) my church****

Attempts to control The Universal Church has played out through power hungry Clergy much like the Pharisees and Sadducees in the time when Jesus walked the earth. Today that still continues along with those who desire to control The Local Church. This would include Pastors, Elders, Deacons, and Laity. No one is immune to becoming a Control Freak.

So what does a **Church Control Freak** look like? Studies by Lifeway have shown that Control Freaks gravitate toward **Smaller Churches** and **Big Churches** tend to attract the passive, anonymous Church attender.

Ways To Recognize A “Church Control Freak” by Dr. Chuck Lawless

- 1. They’ve been at the church for a while.** They assume that their tenure gives them the right to take the lead.
- 2. They’ve often stepped into leadership voids in the past.** Listen to their stories, and you’ll often find that they’ve gained control during previous times of transition or turmoil.
- 3. They want to know everything.** Knowledge is empowering, and they expect to be in the loop for everything. I call them “information idolaters.”
- 4. They don’t listen to opposing views.** Particularly in a congregational-polity church, they’ll fight for the right to express their opinion – but then completely dismiss the opinions of others.
- 5. They demand being a part of every major decision.** In fact, they can’t imagine how the church can wisely decide something without their input. Even if they agree with the decision, they’ll find something wrong if they weren’t part of the process.

6. **Their support for pastoral leadership blows with the wind.** If they like what the pastor's doing, they're on board. If they don't like it, they quickly become opposition – always “for the good of the church,” they say.
7. **They speak in terms of “some people are saying.”** These “people” may be only themselves and their spouses, but the exaggerated phrase “some people” gives them a sense of support.
8. **They see the negative more than the positive.** They see themselves as God's appointed prophet to make sure the church never goes astray (with “astray” meaning any direction they don't want to go).
9. **They often use veiled threats against leaders.** You've probably heard some of them: “people are going to leave”; “we'll stop giving”; “we've seen many pastors come and go”
10. **They seldom talk about the Word or prayer.** Indeed, you'll seldom hear them talk about their personal walk with God. Control freaks don't usually need God.
11. **They often focus on the budget.** Controlling the purse strings is a primary way they extend their influence.
12. **They'd never admit they're controlling.** In fact, they might not even recognize it. That's one of the enemy's subtle ways to mess up the

church: he influences control freaks who don't even recognize what's happening.

The word "My" refers to Jesus who is the one who is talking.

III. There is Tension in The Confrontation against The Church (18c) and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The word translated "Hell" is actually the word "Hades" which is the Abode of the Dead who await Judgement and is identified with Satan and his demonic followers who are the Agents of Death.

Jesus Promises us that The Church or The Assembly of People that He The Messiah is building will never be defeated and can never die!

John 10:27-29 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Can you claim this Promise? Have you placed your Trust in Jesus? Are you Following Jesus? **Come to Jesus Today** and secure your place in Eternity with Him in Heaven!

Praise Team Takes The Platform