

THE CHURCH CHRIST BUILT
AUGUST 14, 2016

INTRODUCTION: Before returning to Heaven Jesus said He would build a church the gates of hell would not prevail against. What does that church look like? What are its characteristics?

1. Christ has preeminence. **COL. 1:18**
 - A. A healthy church is Christ centered, one that exalts the person of Christ and glorifies Him as Savior, Lord, Deliverer, Healer, Baptizer with the Holy Ghost, King of Kings, Lord of Lords!
 - B. **ACTS 5:42** – Some churches are built around being seeker friendly, social activities, entertainment, buildings, finances, certain causes, but Jesus must be the central focus.
2. A Word based church. **2 TIM. 4:2**
 - A. We are not to preach from the New York Times, current events or the latest movie that's out.
 - B. **2 TIM. 3:14-16** – The Word gives us truth, builds us up, corrects us, instructs us, and enables us to defeat every enemy. It teaches what we are to believe about Heaven, hell, marriage, praying, giving, parenting...
 - C. The truth about hell.
 - Rationalist: "There is no God, therefore there can be no hell."
 - Atheist: Robert Ingersoll – "The idea of hell was born of revenge and brutality on one side, and cowardice on the other."
 - Christian Science: "Hell is an error of the mortal mind."
 - Jehovah's Witnesses: "The wicked will be annihilated."
 - Seventh Day Adventist: "The lost will burn up..."
 - God's Word: **MT. 5:29-30** "A place of sensation, separation and suffering unquenchable fire, misery and pain."
3. A Spirit-filled church. **ACTS 1:5,8**
 - A. The original church ministered in the power of the Spirit and believed in spiritual gifts. **1 COR. 2:4-5**
 - B. Jesus didn't intend for His church to have a form of godliness and deny the power thereof. **2 TIM. 3:1-5**
4. A holy church. **1 PET. 1:13-16 (NLT)**
 - A. God doesn't want us to take holiness lightly. **HEB. 12:14**
 - B. Holiness is positional and practical.
5. A praying church. **MT. 21:12-13**
 - A. We believe in the power of prayer. Peter was freed by it!
6. A worshipping church. **MT. 21:14-16**
 - A. **LUKE 24:50-53**
 - B. Israel's golden incense altar spoke of prayer, praise and worship. Beyond it was the Holy of Holies, and divine presence.
7. A witnessing church. **ACTS 8:5-8**
 - A. We got saved because someone witnessed to us.
8. A family church. **EPH. 3:14-15**
 - A. Families love, encourage, build up and help each other.
 - B. The church is to do the same!
9. A church of unity. **1 COR. 1:10**
 - A. We've all be called to keep the unity of the Spirit.
10. A giving church. **MT. 6:21**
 - A. We are to give of our time, talents, abilities and financial resources knowing, **LUKE 6:38**
11. A loving church. **JOHN 13:34-35**
 - A. Love is to motivate all the actions of our lives.
 - B. **1 COR. 13:1-3**