**Why I Love My Church? (Part 1)**

This morning, we begin a mini-series on the topic of the church. We will spend the next few weeks considering the glorious blessings found in being a part of Christ’s church.

Listen to the words of Jesus in **Matthew 16:13-18.** From this text we immediately learn a couple of significant things about the church.

* **The church belongs to .** I will build “my” church.
* **The church is built on the rock-solid of Peter.** The truth of Peter’s confession, “Thou art the Christ”!
* **The church will not be overcome.** The gates of Hades will not overpower it. All the power of death and darkness cannot overcome His church.

It is interesting to note that the word “church” is used for the first time in the NT in Matt. 16:18, with the only other mention of the church in the gospels being Matt. 18:17.

The word is found some 80 times in the New Testament and is translated from the Greek word, “Ek-klesia.” This is a compound word; “ek” meaning “out” or “from” and “kaleho” meaning “to call.” The church is made up of those that have been called out!

* **The church is comprised of a Spiritual . Matthew 12:46-50** Jesus shares that those that do the will of the Father have a shared relationship, a changed relationship! We are His family!

**How does a person become part of God’s family?**

* + **Through the new experience.** The church is made up of the called-out ones. How does God call us out? Through a new Spiritual birth. The term is regeneration or being born again. **John 3 – Nicodemus**

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  + **Through . Romans 8:14-17** Sin had alienated us from God, but in Christ we receive the adoption as sons.
  + **Both the new birth and our adoption are only made possible by the Spirit.** No amount of human effort or merit can earn us the new birth or the adoption into God’s family.

**How does a faith family relate to one another?**

* + **A faith family has a shared .** We all share in the bond of Christ!
  + **A faith family has a shared .** We are known as His children, when we love one another!
  + **A faith family has a shared .** We all have the same goal. To bring glory to God by knowing Him and making Him known.
  + **A faith family has a shared .** Listen the words of the risen Christ in John 20:15-18.

**Application questions to consider:**

**Are you enjoying the blessings of being in a faith family?**

**How are you seeking to love and encourage others in your faith family?**

**How has your faith family been used by God to bless your life?**

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