

CHRIST BUILDS HIS CHURCH

(07/01/2026; Matthew 16:13-20; Richie Pendred; Christ Proclamation Church)

Sermon Theme: After Peter's confession, Jesus grants His Church the authority to act as God's representatives to bind and loose on earth. Therefore, Christians are called to local church membership, where the church wields those keys for the purity of God's people and the protection of the gospel.

I. Identity Revealed – Read Matthew 16:13-17

- A. What are the two questions that Jesus asks His disciples? Who does Peter say Jesus is?
- B. What did the word "Christ" (Messiah) mean to a first-century Jewish listener? How does that shape the weight of Peter's confession?
- C. How is it an encouragement to you that Peter's confession isn't stemming from men, but God? How does this impact how we pray for the salvation of the lost?

II. Authority Granted – Read Matthew 16:18-20

- A. What does Jesus say He will do in verse 18? What does His choice of words, "I will build", tell us about who the church belongs to and who is responsible for its growth?
- B. Read Isaiah 22:20-22. What does the Isaiah 22:20–22 background of the "keys" language tell us about the kind of authority Jesus is giving? What is the difference between possessing a kingdom and stewarding one?
- C. Read Matthew 18:15-20. Compare Matthew 16:19 with Matthew 18:18. What is identical, and what is different about who holds the authority?
- D. In Matthew 18:15–18, why does Jesus give the same "bind and loose" authority to the whole congregation that He gave to Peter and the Apostles? What does this expansion imply about the role of the local church?
- E. Read Matthew 28:18-20. How does Jesus' use of authority showcase what the church is uniquely called to do as His set-apart people?

III. Citizens Commissioned – Application

- A. How does the fact that King Jesus has commissioned His church to proclaim the gospel, refute false doctrine, and guard the purity of His people change how you view what it means to be a church member?
- B. How would you like to grow in your knowledge of God and the gospel?
- C. How would you like to grow in engaging the people of God at Proclamation?

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- D. As stewards of the keys, we are called to be clear on right doctrine and watch over our brothers and sisters. What is one thing you will do differently this week as a steward of the keys Jesus has entrusted to His church?