

Sermon Notes

3rd Sept 2017

Being Church: Starts and ends in Jesus



Introduction to series.

- When I say the word 'church' what do you think of?
- The church at HTB (home of the Alpha course) asked people on the street what they thought about church. Here are some of their answers they gave: church is somewhere to go to at Christmas, a community of people, a building that is the centre of towns etc.
- But what does the Bible say about church?
- Start with what Jesus says about the church.
- Two occasions Jesus talks about church: Matthew 16:18 & Matthew 18.
- Both times Jesus uses the Greek word Ekklesia: which means a people 'called out.' Church is a people group not a building.

Church starts with Jesus.

1. **The church starts with individuals who believe in Jesus.** Matthew 16:13-18.
 - Who is Jesus? Peter says: Jesus is the chosen one, the Son of God. Jesus says: 'on this rock' I will build my church.
 - What is the 'rock' that Jesus is referring to?
 - When a believer affirms that Jesus is their Saviour then we become part of the church.
 - The church is built by Jesus on 'the rock' of who Jesus is.

2. **The church exists also for those who don't yet believe in Jesus.**
 - We welcome people in church who are not sure or just exploring what faith is all about.
 - Matthew 16:19. What is the key to the kingdom? The identity of Jesus.
 - The church shares who Jesus is with everyone including those who don't know Jesus. Through our lives, our actions and our words.
3. **The church sees its identity in Jesus** - Jesus isn't just something we say we believe in but affects how we see ourselves.
 - Authority comes from Jesus – Colossians 1:18.
 - Jesus is the head of the church & has all authority.
 - Baptist declaration of principle: 'Jesus is the sole and absolute authority in faith and practice as revealed through scripture.'
 - Jesus is supreme in all things through his resurrection.
 - We are to live in in the church, family, work place etc as though Jesus rules. Jesus is to be first in the whole of our lives.
 - The church isn't just about Sunday but we are the church 24-7.

Your Notes