

God has intentionally put us into his church

Hebrews 13:17

Hebrews 10:24-25

1 Corinthians 12:13

Revelation 7:9-12

Ephesians 5:25

Matthew 16:13-19 (ESV)

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 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. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

1) The church will continue forever

v18 - "And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"

2) Jesus builds his church

v18 - "I will build my church"

3) The church is built on Peter's confession and the foundation of the apostles

v18 - "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church"

Ephesians 2:19-22

1 Peter 2:4-8

4) We have been delegated authority and are called to be stewards of his church

v19 - "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 18:15-20

Matthew 23:13

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.

Timothy Keller QUOTE

"What is the relationship of the church to the kingdom? On the one hand, the church is a 'pilot plant' of the kingdom of God. It is not simply a collection of individuals who are forgiven. It is a 'royal nation' (1 Peter 2:9), in other words, a counterculture. The church is to be a new society in which the world can see what family dynamics, business practices, race relations, and all of life can be under the kingship of Jesus Christ. God is out to heal all the effects of sin: psychological, social, and physical. On the other hand, the church is to be an agent of the kingdom. It is not only to model the healing of God's rule but it is to spread it. 'You are . . . a royal priesthood, a holy nation . . . that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light' (1 Peter 2:9). Christians go into the world as witnesses of the kingdom (Acts 1:6-8). To spread the kingdom of God is more than simply winning people to Christ. It is also working for the healing of persons, families, relationships, and nations; it is doing deeds of mercy and seeking justice. It is ordering lives and relationships and institutions and communities according to God's authority to bring in the blessedness of the kingdom."

Application Questions

- 1) What is one way you have been reminded of the importance of the church?
- 2) What is one practical way you can become more active and intentional as a member of His church through the local church body here at NHM?
- 3) What is one way we as NHM can be more effective together in being that countercultural society that displays to the world the beauty of God's kingdom reign as a church body?
- 4) What is one way we as NHM can be more effective together in being "an agent of the kingdom" to promote and spread God's healing rule through the making of disciples and "doing deeds of mercy and seeking justice"?