

JESUS' MASTER PROJECT

Jesus declared He would build His '**Church**'.
His '**master project**.'

Jesus: *"I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church..." Matthew 16:18a*

Greek word for church **ekklesia**. **ek** 'out of' and **kaleo** 'to call - **called out ones**.'

Jesus declared He would build His **ekklesia**.

Colossians 1:13-14 (gnt) He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the kingdom of His dear Son, ¹⁴ by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven.

Jesus declared His Church would be a force of strength!

Matthew 16:18 (niv) "I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades (hell) will not overcome it."

The phrase *the gates of hades* was a common idiom in the Greek-speaking world at the time. The gates of a city were strong and fortified.

It conveyed the idea of great strength. An image of absolute power.

In *Acts 2*, Jesus pours His Holy Spirit into the disciples giving them the power and authority they needed to begin to build His Church!

The book of Acts tells the story of the beginning and expansion of the Church.

Despite 2000+ years of persecution, tortures, imprisonment, opposition and slander, **the Church has stood the test of time and stands resilient today.**

DEFINING JESUS' MASTER PROJECT

“The Church is a community of Christ-followers empowered by the Holy Spirit to participate in God’s mission into the world.”

THE CHURCH IS A COMMUNITY

God’s very nature is a community of three persons united as one - the Trinity or Godhead.

- God created us to live life in community.
- Jesus didn’t do life in isolation but in community!

Jesus began His ministry by choosing the twelve disciples to be with Him and to help Him.

The early Church, practised community and it was vital to its growth. (*Acts 2:42-47*)

The Church is **NOT** a ‘*building*’ or an ‘*event*’ we visit, the **Church is a community** that Jesus wants us ‘***connected into***’ - *to do life together*.

Jesus never intended for us to walk through life alone. He desires us to experience authentic community because life is better connected.

Romans 12:5b (nlt) “*Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other and each of us needs all the others.*”

We are designed by God to build healthy life giving and supportive relationships.

The Apostle Paul said; “*As each part does its work, it helps the other parts grow. So Christ’s whole body, is healthy and growing and full of love.*” ***Ephesians 4:16***

Jesus intended for us to grow together, and to support one another.

Galatians 6:10 (msg) “*Every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.*”

Authentic community occurs when we uphold the value and worth of each person, by creating an environment of love, acceptance and forgiveness.

Being committed into a local church family is where we can and should experience authentic community.

Jesus never designed us to live in isolation but in community.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (niv) A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Authentic community is best achieved through physical relationships and fellowship and not through online relationships or online church.

*Hebrews 10:24-25a (niv) And let us consider how we may **spur** one another on toward love and good deeds,*

Jesus desires us to grow through **mutual encouragement, accountability and serving together.**

²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...

Genuine loving physical relationships provide the care, support and context we need to stay on course so life transformation can take place.

A sense of belonging best happens through supportive and accountable relationships.