



Which Church Is Right?

Week 4 of 6

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 VIDEO CLIPS • TODAY • THIS SERIES • PRAY

THE BIG QUESTION:

Can I **trust** the **Church**?

GP: IN CHICAGO, I SAW MANY PEOPLE LEAVE MY CHURCH... AND GO TO ANOTHER

THE SCARY ANSWER:

There is only **one church**.
 Life is found **nowhere else**.

THE ONE TRUE CHURCH

Matthew 16:13-28 (p. 681)

"I will build my church (ekklesia / ἐκκλησία)."

ekklesia: an **assembly** composed of those who meet
 specific **criteria**.

CONGRESS / HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

idea » **people** » **gathering** »
organization » **building**

HOW MUCH CAN YOU GET RID OF AND STILL HAVE THE "HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES"
 CONGRESS REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE • THE CHURCH REPRESENTS CHRIST!

THE ONE TRUE CHURCH IS...

- built on the confession of Jesus as the **Christ**
- built by **Jesus** himself
- built to overcome **death**
- built to offer **entrance** to **life**
- built with those who **take up** the **cross**.

The true church of Jesus is the universal **community** of those who according to His **will**, have placed their faith in him as **Savior**, and who bear the marks of calling him **Lord**.

MARKS: CORE VALUES

SO WHY ARE THERE SO MANY CHURCHES?

(A BRIEF LESSON IN CHURCH HISTORY)

325 AD • The Council of Nicaea

• declared **Arianism** a **heresy**.

• developed a **unified creed**.

400–1500 AD • Catholicism & The Papacy

1517 AD • Luther (& Calvin) Launch the Protestant Reformation

• Sola scriptura ("by Scripture alone")

(no interpreter needed)

• Sola fide ("by faith alone")

(regeneration -> faith -> justification & works)

• Sola gratia ("by grace alone")

• Solus Christus or Solo Christo ("Christ alone" or "through Christ alone")

(no pope, priest, saint or other mediator needed)

• Soli Deo gloria ("glory to God alone")

(no glory to "saints" or others)

PROS / CONS: more biblical, more thoughtful, more cordial, but more divided

1600s • Baptists & Separatists

BAPTISTS AS OPPOSED TO COVENANTAL

1700s • Evangelicalism

• Personal Conversion

• Personal Activism (witnessing)

• Biblical Authority

• Emphasis on the Cross

EVANGELICAL IS NOT A POLITICAL PARTY!!

Early 1900s • American Fundamentalist Controversy

Liberalism • Evangelicalism • Fundamentalism

Mid 1900s • Pentecostalism & Charismatic Movement

Pentecostal • Charismatic • Other • Cessationist

Other Notable Developments:

1827 Joseph Smith begins Mormonism

1876 Charles Taze Russell starts what will become Jehovah's Witnesses

Other Issues:

TRADITIONS, TRANSLATIONS, LEADERSHIP & WORSHIP STYLES

How Do I Know LCC Is Right?

JESUS-FOCUSED, BIBLE-CENTERED // this community seeks his will, calls him Savior, and is being marked by his lordship // BUT THAT'S NOT THE BIGGEST ISSUE ...

ONE CHURCH & THE CHURCH HAS THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM! • FIND IT! JOIN IT! SUBMIT TO IT!!

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