

Is One Church as Good As Another?

(Matthew 16:18)

- Introduction:
1. “It doesn’t really matter what church you go to.”
 2. I have heard that statement made countless times over the years.
 3. It’s a statement that is frequently affirmed, but seldom defended.
 4. Let’s seek to answer this question today.

I. An Authoritative Answer

- A. This question is too important for me or anyone else to answer by giving you my opinion.
- B. We need a better authority – Jesus.
- C. (Matthew 28:18; John 12:48; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

II. A Narrow Way

- A. We live in a pluralistic and inclusive culture, and the thought of excluding someone is unfathomable.
- B. But let’s consider if it is unfathomable to God to exclude people, even sincere, religious people
- C. (Matthew 7:13-14; 21-23).
 1. Consider these three questions.
 - a. Will everyone who calls on the name of the Lord enter the kingdom of Heaven?
 - b. Will religious people some day be surprised to learn that God never knew them?
 - c. Who will enter the kingdom of Heaven?

III. A Narrow God

- A. How many churches did Jesus build?
 1. (Matthew 16:18).
 2. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4).
- B. Has God ever chosen just one location for salvation?
 1. The Flood & ark (Genesis 7).
 2. The Passover & Death of the firstborn (Exodus 12).
 3. Jericho & Rahab’s house (Joshua 2).
 4. The Church (Matthew 15:13).

IV. An Urgent Pursuit

- A. How can I be sure that I am in the one church that Jesus built?
- B. This should be a life and death pursuit to which we should be diligent (Hebrews 11:6).
- C. Consider the marks of identification.

- Conclusion:
1. If we believe what they believed; and do what they did; we will be what they were.
 2. Let’s make sure we are doing the will of the Father (Matthew 7:21).