

Jesus' Church

Back to the Basics | Week 1

Hayden | September 17th & September 20th 2026 | Gabe Cleave



Big Idea

Jesus is building His church, and we are called to be devoted participants in the life and mission of His church.

Jesus Is Building His Church

Matthew 16:16 "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

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

God is building His church right here, and we all get to choose to be a part of it.

What Is Jesus' Church?

The church is not:

- A building
- A service
- An organization
- A denomination
- An event

When Jesus said "church," the original word means "a called-out assembly."

The church is a group of people who have been called out of the world and into the kingdom of God.

The Big "C" and Little "c" Church

The church consists of both:

- The universal or "Big C" Church — all believers throughout the last 2,000 years of church history.
- The local or "little c" church — a local body of believers living out the life and mission of Jesus together.

If you are a true follower of Christ, you belong to both, and you are called to be devoted to both.

How Did the Church Begin?

Acts 2:38, 41

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins... Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

What Did Jesus' Church Do?

Acts 2:42

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

The Early Church Was Devoted To:

- God's Word — "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching."
- One another — "...and to fellowship."
- Worshiping and praying together — "...to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
- Being generous and serving — "They sold property and possessions to give..."
- Living life together — "They broke bread in their homes..."
- Glorifying God — "Praising God..."
- Making room for people far from God — "The Lord added to their number daily..."

Truth to Remember

Church was never meant to be a place you visit once a week.

Being Jesus' church is a life you live, not a building you visit.

What Does This Look Like for Us?

As we continue in the Legacy Project, we are asking nothing more than what Scripture tells us the early church did and what Jesus' church has continued to do throughout history.

We are inviting you to be a part of what the Bible describes as Jesus' church:

- Pray diligently
- Attend faithfully
- Connect relationally — through a Life Group and serving
- Invite consistently
- Give generously — through your tithe and above-and-beyond giving

Bottom Line

Jesus is building His church. We are called not simply to attend it, but to be devoted to it and live as His church together.

Response

- Am I devoted to God's Word?
- Am I genuinely connected to other believers?
- Am I worshiping, praying, serving, and giving?
- Am I making room in my life for people who are far from God?
- Am I simply attending church, or am I living as part of Jesus' church?

