

FAMILY MATTERS

Matthew 16:13-19, Ephesians 2:19-20

- **In our MY CHURCH series we want to help people become more connected to Jesus Christ and to Celebration Church, so they can begin to really fulfill His purposes and plans for their lives.**
    - **Celebration's Mission** - To lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ and difference-makers in the world
    - **Celebration's Vision - We pray God will use Celebration to:** 1) **Exalt Jesus** (Ephesians 3:21), 2) **Transform Lives** (Titus 3:3-7), 3) **Strengthen Families** (Acts 16:19-34), 4) **Improve Communities** (Acts 8:5-8) and 5) **Impact our World** (Matthew 28:19-20).
    - **Go to www.celebrationchurch.org/2025annualreview.**
    - **Email *What I Love About My Church* to info@celebrationchuch.org.**
- Jesus - *"I will build My church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."* (Matthew 16:18)
- Paul - *"You Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself."* (Ephesians 2:19-20)
- **A Church is a group of Jesus followers, a spiritual family, who have banded together to carry out the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in our world.**
- **When a Church is following God's Spirit and fulfilling its purposes, the Lord will bless the Church and bless many people through its ministry (Acts 9:31).**
- ***What steps can we take to partner with the Lord in building His Church and making a difference for good and for God in our world?***

To Partner With Jesus In Building His Church We Need To:

BECOME A MEMBER OF A CHURCH FAMILY

- *"You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."* (Ephesians 2:19 LB)
- **The Christian life is not just a matter of believing – it's also a matter of belonging.**
- *"In Christ we who are many form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others."* (Romans 12:5)
- **The way to become a member of the Celebration family is by attending a FIRST STEPS event, committing to live by our *Celebration Membership Agreement,* and being baptized by immersion.**
- Jesus - *"Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."* (Matthew 28:19)
- ***Baptism by immersion* is the symbol that shows that we belong to God's family, and attending FIRST STEPS indicates that we want to become a member of the Celebration family.**
- **FIRST STEPS helps people understand: 1) who we are as a Church, 2) what we believe, 3) how to grow as a Christian, and 4) how to get involved in our Church family so they can be difference-makers in the world.**
- ***What do I need to do to become a member of the Celebration family?***

To Partner With Jesus In Building His Church We Need To:

SHARE WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- *"All the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other."* (Acts 2:44)
- **We need to learn how to share our *Experiences* with other members of our spiritual family.**
    - *"People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron."* (Proverbs 27:17)
    - **Wise people learn from their experiences, but wiser people learn from the experiences of others as well.**
- **We need to learn how to share our *Abilities* with other members of our spiritual family.**
    - *"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well."* (Romans 12:6)
    - *"A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church."* (1 Corinthians 12:7)
    - **The abilities we have are an indication of what God wants to do in and through our lives.**
    - *"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10)

- **We need to learn how to share our *Struggles* with other members of our spiritual family.**
    - *"Share each other's troubles and problems."* (Galatians 6:2)
    - **Allowing other Christians to know what's going on in our lives gives us the support we need to overcome those troubles and struggles.**
- ***Life Groups* are good places to share our experiences, abilities and problems with others.**

To Partner With Jesus In Building His Church We Need To:

<u>CONTRIBUTE</u> TO BUILDING OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Jesus - *"I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven."* (Matthew 16:18-19)
- **Jesus builds His Church as His people *Grow in their Faith*.**
    - Peter - *"You must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* (2 Peter 3:18)
    - **We should continually look for ways to grow in our knowledge of God's Word and will for our lives so we can live strong lives.**
- **Jesus builds His Church as His people *Minister to People around them*.**
    - *"When Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless . . . He said to His disciples, . . . 'Pray to the Lord . . . ; ask Him to send more workers into His fields.'"* (Matthew 9:36-38)
    - **Every week we should be looking for people to minister to who are confused or hurting, who are like "sheep without a shepherd."**
- **Jesus builds His Church as His people *Share their Faith* with others.**
    - Jesus - *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere."* (Acts 1:8)
    - **We should constantly tell others about who Jesus is to us and what He's done for us, also constantly invite people to join us in Life Groups and Worship Services, so they can begin growing in the Lord and getting connected to a Church family.**
- **Jesus builds His Church as His people *Give to Support His Work.***
    - *""Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,' says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, 'I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put Me to the test!"* (Malachi 3:10)
    - **When we generously give to support the Lord's work, His Church is strengthened, people are helped, and we are blessed by Him.**

- *“The church . . . became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.”* (Acts 9:31)
- **When Jesus’ people surrender to Him and work with Him to build His Church and carry out His ministry, we will make a powerful difference for good and for God in people’s lives and in the world around us.**
- ***What steps do I need to take to get more involved in building Jesus’ Church so it can make a greater difference in our world?***
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