

Jesus' Vision of His Church

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Intro: Building my front porch

- A. How I had envisioned it.
- B. Preparations to build it
- C. Getting materials to build it
- D. Painting, sawing, nailing measuring

MAT 16:15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

MAT 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

MAT 16:17 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

MAT 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.

Jesus claimed in vs. 18 that he would build MY CHURCH.

COL 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.

He is the head of the Church.

How did Jesus envision his Church

- A. Jews and Gentiles Acts 14:27
- B. No preference because of social status James 2:1-4
- C. Those who do God's Will, he will call brother and sister Matthew 12:50
- D. Serving each other

JOH 13:14 "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

JOH 13:15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.

E. Loving each other

JOH 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

JOH 13:35 " "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

I would like to spend some time on the vision that Jesus had for his church and where we are in relation to that. Specifically calling each other Brother and Sister, and serving and loving one another.

In the past three years, we have grown closer together as a body. And we have grown as a body. Take a look around, we have so many young babies and children I can't remember all of their names. There are at least 7 infants under one year old. We have prayed for these infants, and as a church body have dedicated ourselves to helping the parents raise these young children in the Lord. I remember all of those who had an influence in my life in relation to knowing the Lord, and we in turn want to have an influence in their life in knowing the Lord.

We are in the process of developing a program for these infants, to learn on their level. During the sermon given to the congregation these young children will be learning about God. They will sing songs, have stories read from scripture, and learn how to relate to each other. This will be very challenging for the teachers but they love these kids and want to see them grow closer to God.

We are also in the process of developing a program called Lads to Leaders. This program will help young men and women learn about God in various ways. Memorizing scripture, learning to give devotions, song leading, writing poems, and other things. In doing this together they will hopefully bond with each other.

We have such a great group of young people here. Two of our young people have been given servant awards from the boy scout organization

We have a young lady who started a group called Bright Lights. This group of young ladies learn moral values and become closer together and closer to God.

Recently some of the Youth initiated gathering together on a regular basis so that they could become closer, and learn about God.

In the last two years, these young people have served other people by helping out in the floods and tornados.

Three young people have taken on their Lord in baptism in the last 3 weeks.

All of these things excite me, because I see the youth of this congregation not only developing a love for God, but are in the process of developing bonds that will last a lifetime. They are brothers and sisters in Christ. They are developing a love for each other. They are being servants of God. They are fulfilling the vision that Christ had for his Church.

As you can see we have a new auditorium and an area for fellowship. As you can also see we are outgrowing it. Maybe we should consider expanding again, what do you say Glen?

One of the reasons for expanding was to help serve those of the congregation and community. We have already used the fellowship hall on a couple of occasions. When we think of evangelizing those who are lost, a couple of things come to mind. We need a close, loving, servant oriented people to bring new converts into. We have to show them by our love for one another what the Lord envisioned for his Church. What good would it do to convert them to the Lord, only to bring them into a place of discord and bitterness.

JOH 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

JOH 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The other is to bring them into a facility where we can gather together and sing, pray, read the word and worship the Lord our God.

Jesus had a vision for what his Church would be. I pray that God would help us fulfill what he had envisioned.

EPH 3:20 ¶ Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,
EPH 3:21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen