

Are All Churches The Same?

Matthew 16:18-19

In **Matthew 16:18-19** Jesus makes the impactful statement to Peter “Upon this rock, I will build my church.” It is a statement that means so much to us in an authoritative stance and historical. The fact is Jesus will build His church and it will stand forever.

Unfortunately, for us as individuals we have even during the time of Christ have made a mess of it all when it comes to His church. According to statistics there are approximately 4,000 religions in the world. Google points out that the main five categories are Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, and Islam. Within these categories we can notice how these different doctrines have budded out. So, it begs the question “Are All Churches the Same?”

As we look to God’s Word it may say otherwise when it comes to religion and doctrinal teachings. **Ephesians 4:4** speaks about there being one body. The trendy belief is a universal way that every church goes their own way and teaches whatever and all will be saved. Is that what the Bible honestly says? Paul reminds us that there is one body and Christ is the Head of that body (**Ephesians 1:22-23**). Just as we have one physical body and one head to that body, can we not say the same about Christ and His body (*church*)? In **Matthew 7:13-14** Jesus speaks about two ways a person could go. A narrow path that few go in and find the way that leads to life. Then there is a broad way that many go in and find the way that leads to destruction. If Jesus points out that there are two ways how can God approve a universal path? How can all religion and all doctrinal teaching then lead to life?

There is a term that is used besides universalism that will kill a faithful and sound church. That is **ecumenicalism**. This idea of unity and love between all religion. While like universalism it supports unity in the practices of religion. Paul spoke about things in **II Corinthians 6:14** to not be equally yoked together with unbelievers. That seems like a forgone conclusion.

Then we have what takes place in Pergamos in **Revelation 2:12-17** where the church was trying to be in unity with the doctrine of Balaam which was condemned by God (**Numbers 25:1-5; 31:8,16**) and there were consequences. Also revealed there is that the doctrine of the Nicolaitans was being held there which God hates.

God does not approve or love false doctrine and teaching (**Proverbs 6:16-19**). God in fact **HATES** a lying tongue, a false witness, and one who sows discord among brethren. All pointing to the fact God wants us to abide in Him and His doctrine given through Christ (**II John 9**). God does not want to embrace other religions or compromise. We are instructed to abhor what is evil and cling to what is good (**Romans 12:9**).

Jesus came and said he would build His church. We have an identity to go by (**Romans 16:16**). Does that mean that all churches of Christ are the same? As we look in the world today, we can see there is a support by people claiming to be a church of Christ but have, instrumental music, women preachers, support of institutional programs, support of the social gospel and using funds to support it, support of sin. Is this what God wants from His Church that His Son purchased with His blood (**Acts 20:28**).

Not all churches are the same! Be aware of this. It does matter to God how we worship Him and how He wants His church to be! (**John 4:23-24**)

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