

What Kind of Church?
New Thing
August 14, 2022

“In the first century, no one asked Christians if they were Christian. They were accused of it.”—Andy Stanley

Disciple = learner-pupil-apprentice-adherent-follower

We are a Jesus-following, disciple-making church. Our mission statement as a church is this: **To make disciples of Jesus who love God, love people and serve the world.**

Jesus’ arrival signaled the end of something and the beginning of something entirely new.

People who were nothing like Jesus, liked Jesus.

He [Jesus] canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:14 NLT)

“Yet against all odds, by the third century, Christianity had become a force to be reckoned with. We still do not really understand how this came about.”—Karen Armstrong

The nickname of Caesarea Philippi was “*the gates of Hades.*”

He asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” (Matthew 16:13)

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” (Matthew 16:15)

“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:16)

“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. (Matthew 16:17)

“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. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. (Matthew 16:18-20)

...upon this rock I will build my ecclesia...

Jesus wasn’t talking about a place people would come to. Jesus was promising a people that would go out.

He was talking about a *body*—a body of people who would be committed to this one big idea: that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior, the Messiah, the Lord of all, the Son of the living God.

“Jesus was the temple to end all temples, the priest to end all priests, and the sacrifice to end all sacrifices.”—Tim Keller

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

The gates of Hades will not overcome it. (Matthew 16:18)

A promise is only as good as the person who makes it.

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. (Matthew 16:21)

...He has risen just as He said... (Matthew 28:6)

The resurrection is the reason I believe His promises!

What kind of church are we? We’re a Jesus-following, disciple-making church that Jesus promised and that His resurrection makes a reality.