

Defending the Church **Matthew 16:19-19**

Where do you stand when it comes to defending the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Sadly, for so many, the Lord's Church has become the target of scrutiny, discredit, and mistrust. However, in a portion of the book of Matthew, we learn about origin of the church and how it should continue for the glory of God. As you reflect on this message, be encouraged to speak up and stand firm for the Lord's vision of how His church should operate in this world.

"And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way." -Ephesians 1:22-23

Three Marks of the Lord's Church

- **Bold Confession (v.16-17)**

- **Divine Construction (v. 18)**

- **Healthy Continuance (v. 19)**

Application

- ✓ How are you regularly utilizing heaven to help you live and thrive within the church on earth? Read your Bible daily, gather with the church in person to learn more about His will.

- ✓ In your prayer time, thank God for His church. Ask for wisdom in how God would have you to build your life on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

Meditate on the following scriptures: Isaiah 28:16; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 5:4-5; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 3:3-6

"As you come to him, a living stone rejected by people but chosen and honored by God, you yourselves, as living stones, a spiritual house, are being built to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."
-1 Peter 2:4-5