



In **Matthew 16:18**, Jesus made a promise:

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my \_\_\_\_\_, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

By the time Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians, Jesus *had* built his church:

And [God] put all things under [Jesus’] feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (**Eph 1:22-23**)

### But what *is* the church?

The New Testament wasn’t written in English; it was written in the Greek language and the Greek word we have translated “church” in our Bibles is *ekklesia*. It means “\_\_\_\_\_.” It doesn’t even have to have a religious meaning—it’s just an assembly (**Acts 19:32**) or congregation (**Acts 15:30**) of people.

**Jesus’ church is a group of “called out” \_\_\_\_\_.**

But called how? By who? Why? Where to?

- Called by the \_\_\_\_\_ (**2 Thes 2:14**)
- Out of \_\_\_\_\_, into light (**1 Pet 2:9**)
- Called to be \_\_\_\_\_ (**Rom 1:7**)
- Called into the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus (**1 Cor 1:9**)
- Called in one \_\_\_\_\_ (**Col 3:15**)
- Called to his eternal \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Pet 5:10**)

The church is people who have answered the call to leave sin behind so they can be \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus (**Matt 28:18-20**). We’ll talk about that on Wednesday.

### For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let’s go back to **Matthew 16** and read **verses 13-18**. What important question did Jesus ask his disciples?
  - What is “**this rock**” that Jesus was going to build his church on?
  - “...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” What was Jesus promising?
- How is the gospel always “calling” people?
- Let’s go back to **1 Peter 2:9**. What is the “**darkness**” God is calling people out of?
- Why does God even care whether we are in the darkness or not?
- **Colossians 3:15** told us we are “**called in one body**.” What is this “**one body**”?
- Let’s circle back to **Matthew 16:18**. Who does the church belong to? This means...

### This Wednesday:

**What’s a disciple?**