

Introduction:

1. The Church is built on _____ (vv.13-18a).

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church..."

A. _____ is the bedrock.

B. _____ is the bedrock.

C. _____ is the bedrock.

2. The church is a _____ of Jesus followers (v.18a).

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church..."

3. The church is _____ by Jesus (v.18a).

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church..."

4. The church is _____ by Jesus (v.18a).

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church..."

5. The church is _____ by Jesus (v.18a).

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church..."

6. The church is _____ (v.18b).

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

Community Group Questions

1. Prior to hearing the message on Sunday, what was your understanding of the church? How did Sunday's message help you?

2. What is '*this rock*' that Jesus said he will build his church on (v.18)? How have others understood this passage? What are some problems with the other views?

3. What are the '*gates of Hades*'? (See Job 38:17; Ps. 9:13; 107:18; Is. 38:10). How have others understood this passage?

4. How does the statement that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church encourage you?

5. What does it mean when the church is referred to as local and universal? What is the universal church? See Mt. 16:18; Rev. 5:9-10; Col. 1:18 as examples of the universal nature of the church. What is the local church? See 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; Philemon v.2 as examples of the local church.

6. What does it mean when the church is referred to as visible and invisible? Is the church just what we see in the local gathering? Are all who gather in a local context part of the church as defined by Jesus?