



# "The Perfect Church"

"...I build My Church..."

*Matthew 16:13-20 ESV*

*[13] Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" [14] And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." [15] He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" [16] Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." [17] And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. [18] **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.***

## Introduction

Jesus then took his disciples to Caesarea Philippi, a city about twenty-five miles north of the Sea of Galilee, where a temple honored the Roman emperor Caesar Augustus. Perhaps the reverence for a mortal man prompted Jesus to ask his followers, **Whom do people say the Son of Man is?**

There was much speculation among the crowds about Jesus. Some thought he was John the Baptist from the dead—or one of the Old Testament prophets. But after his disciples relayed all the gossip concerning Jesus, he got to his fundamental question: **Whom do you say I am?** (16:15). The "you" here is plural, so the question was addressed to the entire group. **Simon Peter quickly and correctly answered: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. [18]** 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.

The ideal Church, as revealed in the New Testament, like the New Jerusalem, has twelve gates to it.

## The Twelve Gates of a Perfect Church

1. **The Christship of Jesus is the Foundation of the Church.** "
2. **The Blood of Christ is the Atoning Price of the Church.**
3. **The Holy Spirit is the Administrator of the Church;**
4. **The ascended Lord is the Head of the Church,** His mystical body—  
Ephesians 1:22-23 ESV And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
5. **Love is the Motive and Moving Power of the Church;** hence, the members are to love each other "as Christ loved the Church"  
Ephesians 2:4-5 NLT - But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, [5] that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)
6. **Prayer is the Life of the Church,** the power that brings release, even as it did to imprisoned Peter when prayer was "made without ceasing of the Church unto God" Acts 12:5 NLT - But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.

7. **Worship of the Lord is the Privilege of the Church**, and Christ is ever the One who amid the Church leads her in praise to God—Heb. ii. 12; and the Church is responsible and privileged to "come together" to remember the Lord's death - **Hebrews 2:12 NLT** For he said to God, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people."
  
8. **Edification, or building each other up**, is the Rule of the Church, hence, the keynote of all ministry in the Church - **1 Corinthians 14:18-19 NLT** I thank God that I speak in tongues more than any of you. [19] But in a church meeting, I would rather speak five understandable words to help others than ten thousand words in an unknown language.