

Did The Lord Build More Than One Church?

Is one church just as good as another?



More than one church?

- Not a personal defense. 1 Peter 3:15
 - Not purpose to defend where I worship.
- Not purpose to identify. Qualities and Characteristics.
- Provoke study.
 - Some arguments are inconsistent.
 - Some illogical.
 - Contradict the Bible.

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If the Lord built more than one church

- Then ... the text of Matthew 16:13-20 is grammatically incorrect.
- *"And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."* (Matthew 16:18)

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If the Lord built more than one church

- Then ... He approves of all of them.
- Yet, there are some things the Father did not plant. Matthew 15:7-13; Hebrews 8:2

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If the Lord built more than one church

- Then ... God is self-contradictory.
- Yet, God is not the author of confusion. 1 Corinthians 14:33

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If the Lord built more than one church

- Then ... God would contradict His law of production and reproduction.
 - Yet, seed produces "after its kind." Genesis 1:24-25
 - Luke 8:11 The word is the seed of the kingdom.
 - Galatians 6:7 We reap what we sow.

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If the Lord built more than one church

- Then ... He is the head of all denominations.

Catholic

Protestant

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If the Lord built more than one church

- Then ... He is the head of all denominations.
- Yet ...

Ephesians 1:22-23, "and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body"

Ephesians 5:23, "For the husband is the head of the wife, and Christ also is the head of the church, (being) himself the saviour of the body."

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If the Lord built more than one church

- Then ... the blood of Christ is of no benefit to the salvation of the world.
 - Yet ... Christ purchased the church with His blood. Acts 20:28; cf. Ephesians 5:23-25

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If the Lord built more than one church

- Then ... He built something that He prayed against.
 - Yet ... Jesus prayed for unity among believers. John 17:20ff; cf. 1 Corinthians 1:10

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If the Lord built more than one church

- Then ... no one could be a member of any one of them on the basis of conviction ... i.e. "I belong to this one because it is right."
 - Yet ... conviction is commanded. 1 Peter 3:15

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If the Lord built more than one church

- Then ... Christ would have the same spiritual relationship to all of them. (He would be a spiritual polygamist.)

–Yet ... the church is the bride of Christ.
Ephesians 5:23ff; Romans 7:1-4; 2
Corinthians 11:2; cf. Isaiah 54:5

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If the Lord built more than one church

- Then ... it doesn't make any difference what we preach, believe or practice.

–Yet ... Teaching the tradition of men made worship vain. Matthew 15:7-9

–Yet ... Paul pronounced the curse of God upon anyone who would preach anything different. Galatians 1:6-9

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If the Lord built more than one church

- Then ... the Lord made a mistake in addition ... He added when He should have divided.

–Yet ... The Lord ADDED the saved to the CHURCH.

–Acts 2:47, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

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