

Higher Ground

KEEPING A SPIRITUAL FOCUS IN THIS MATERIAL WORLD





The Church Christ Established

- Its Establishment

- Promised and Prophesied

MATTHEW 16:16-18

- Its Beginning

ACTS 2



The Church Christ Established

- The Makeup of the Church

- People, Not the Building

- ACTS 5:11; 11:22, 23; ROMANS 16:5**

- SAVED People

- ACTS 2:47**



The Church Christ Established

- The Nature and Purpose of the Church
 - Spiritual People
1ST CORINTHIANS 3:1-4
 - A Spiritual House
EPHESIANS 2:22; 1ST PETER 2:5



The Church Christ Established

- The Nature and Purpose of the Church

- Offering Spiritual Sacrifices

1ST PETER 2:5

- Spiritual Edification

EPHESIANS 4:11-16



Attempts to Change the Church

- The Makeup of the Church

- Anyone Who Wants To Be A Part

“The answer may surprise you. **Each person gets to decide for themselves if they want to be a part of the church or not.** There are no membership requirements, no tests to pass, and no secret handshake. If you want to be a part of the church, then you are already welcome here. No matter what your past looks like, **no matter what your beliefs are,** and no matter who you are – you are welcome in the church.”



Attempts to Change the Church

- The Makeup of the Church

- Anyone Who Wants To Be A Part
- Those Who 'Intensely Desire' It

“The baptism of desire occurs when a non-baptized person intensely desires to become part of the [church], as it were – but for a serious and/or valid reason is unable to be baptized by water... **God the Father does not deny anyone** the opportunity to become part of the [church].”



Attempts to Change the Church

- The Purpose of the Church
 - Entertaining the Masses
 - Political, Social, and Economic 'Justice'



Attempts to Change the Church

- The Faith of the Church
 - One That Changes With Society
 - Creeds, Synods, Statements of Faith



Standing Firm

- Remember Whose Church It Is
 - Christ's!

MATTHEW 16:18

- He Is Its Only Head

EPHESIANS 1:22, 23; COLOSSIAN 1:18



Standing Firm

- Remember Whose Church It Is
 - He Has All Authority

MATTHEW 28:18
 - It Is Not MY Church!



Standing Firm

- Remember What Price Was Paid

- Purchased With His Blood

ACTS 20:28

- We Are Bought With a Price

1ST COR. 6:20; 7:23; EPH. 1:7



Standing Firm

- Remember What Price Was Paid

- The Just for the Unjust

1ST PETER 3:18; ROMANS 5:6, 8

- Redeemed and Transformed

1ST PETER 1:18, 19; 2ND CORINTHIANS 5:17;

ROMANS 12:2

