

# The Church of the Chief Shepherd

Math. 16:18

There are two important teaching truths to know about the apostolic church:

1. **Jesus Christ must have permission from us to build the church on His terms.** (He purchased the church with His blood and He builds it on our blood)
  - a. So Jesus must build any church on His nature, character, and personality if it's the church that Jesus builds.
2. **Jesus must be given the authority to build His church as the Chief Shepherd** according to 1 Pet. 5:4.
  - a. This means Jesus will build His church with the DNA mentality of a shepherd to sheep relationship.
  - b. The church is not a sorority or a fraternity. The church is not the American Red Cross. It's not a secular business in and of itself.
  - c. Jesus clearly states throughout the scriptures, 'I will build My church where the people will grow and reproduce as sheep the Chief Shepherd'.

There are 3 reasons why –

The shepherd to sheep terminology is very important to understand when we apart of building the Church of Jesus Christ.

1. Because Jesus referred to Himself as the Lamb.
2. God refers to His heart coming out from a shepherd.
3. Because Jesus wants His universal church to look, to operate, and function, the same way around the world.
  - a. This term shepherd to sheep denotes a Christological, relational love between members of the church.
  - b. This terminology is referenced in the Bible over 700 times. I believe Jesus wants to emphasize how to build His church to us on these terminologies – because they impact the move of prayer and spiritual warfare in a church. They impact relational love in a church.

Let's look a little closer at the classic chapter between a shepherd and sheep in John 10.

Read vs. 1 – Jesus is telling us how to build His church and He describes the church member.

- a) Let's examine the word door and sheepfold. Vs. 2 – The Shepherd here is Christ, the Chief Shepherd.
- b) The watchman in vs. 3 is a porter or the fivefold ministry.
- c) The porter, the pastor, or department head opens the door of philosophies, ideologies, of the church only for the character and will of Jesus Christ (read vs. 3)
- d) Jesus is not only the Chief Shepherd but He is the Door according to vs. 7 and vs. 9.
- e) So the porter or leadership opens the door of prayer and Word to the sheep who will learn the voice and ways of the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ.
- f) Sheep must continuously eat grass (the Word) and drink a lot of water (the Holy Ghost, in prayer and worship).
- g) When Jesus is allowed to be the Chief Shepherd of the church He builds, notice what happens.

1. The sheep become accustomed to voice of prayer and the written Rhema Word.
2. Vs. 3 – The sheep have power and desire to heed and obey the voice of the Chief Shepherd by prayer and the Word.

3. Vs. 3 – They become familiar with the moving of prayer through their palanquin bed because Jesus calls them by name.
4. Vs. 3 – The sheep are lead away from compromised, secular Christianity by the Chief Shepherd.
  - a. Vs. 4 – He walks before them, He leads by drawing of love through prayer.
  - b. He doesn't push them or drag them through John Maxwell business strategies.
  - c. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd.
  - d. The sheep follow because they've bonded in fasting, prayer, and the Word to the point they distinguish His voice clearly.

#### Verse 7 – I Am the Door

- a. I am laying myself at the door to be an example to the under shepherds.
- b. In other words, Jesus sets the bar level by His life and death for relational love and sacrifice.
- c. He's the door because He's watching for secular Christianity trying to come in and disturb His sheep to make them sick and unhealthy. Read vs. 8.
- d. So when the Chief Shepherd builds His church, the sheep will distinguish the thief and the robbers trying to offer them some other way to live for God and go to church.

#### Vs. 9 – I Am the Door

- a. Build My church on My definition of relational love right at the door and from the get go.
- b. Jesus keeps emphasizing, He is the Door or the Gate so all of His under shepherds, will too, lay down their lives for the sheep. This means the universal church leadership is constantly shaping sheep in a relational way. That points sheep back to eating the Word and getting into God's Presence. Why look at vs. 10?

There are 3 thieves who are enemies to the sheep of God's church.

- 1) The farmer
  1. Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd.
    - a. Cain was a business man and wanted a secular Christianity relationship.
    - b. God, from the beginning of the Bible, distinguishes the importance of a shepherd and a farmer in the story of Cain and Abel in Gen. 4:2. God had respect for Abel as a shepherd because he was building the church through sacrificial dying of relational love.
    - c. Cain was a farmer building the church on non-relational proficiency.
  2. The stranger in John 10:5 is the charismatic preacher, or saint, or relative. They tell you it's not necessary to walk in holiness standards.
    - a. They pick away at your time spent sacrificing for souls and the church. It's a stranger's voice coming to steal, kill, and destroy because their real motives are not built on the character and dying of the Chief Shepherd. Read vs. 11-13.
3. The Hireling
  - a. This is a person who leads because they have a title or community status.
  - b. They didn't come by the way of the Door by the Chief Shepherd.
  - c. They have a positional relationship and are not willing to give themselves for the sheep.
    - i. These 3, stranger, hireling, and farmer come to steal, kill, and destroy the sheep.
    - ii. Now why is this so all really important to know?

- iii. Because they universal bride of Jesus Christ has to look the same way all around the world.
- iv. Also because God chooses His under shepherds with the same relational love make up as the Chief Shepherd.

Look at 1 Sam 16:11

(The youngest)

- A. This means “runt” or insignificant one.
- B. God builds His church and calls David a man after His heart because he was the last of his brethren and David took caring for the sheep as a very important job.
- C. David cared for the insignificant!! This is how we build the church of the Chief Shepherd.
- D. God chooses weak things to confound the wise.
- E. Everybody else had more important things to do except David, the little, ruddy runt.
- F. This was a Middle Eastern custom to choose the least significant to take care of the insignificant. John 10:14-15

Read John 10:16 – I have sheep out of this fold.

Hireling, strangers, and farmers will not build the Shepherd’s church by laying it out on the line for insignificant sheep.

- Jesus requires a certain shepherd’s mentality because:
  - Sheep are defenseless (David found that out)
  - Sheep left alone become weak and die. They thrive in a community environment (Go after the one in 99) Math 10:16.
  - Read Ezek 34:4-8
    - Diseased, weak, hurting, crippled, and gone astray

The end results in twofold:

1. Sheep grow in the nature and values of Jesus.
2. Sheep reproduce themselves.

Read 1 Peter 5:1-11

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