

## WHAT IS A CHURCH? WHO ARE WE ANYWAY?

### Matthew 16:13-20

*<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

THE CHURCH is NOT THE BUILDING... CHURCH IS THE PEOPLE... WE ARE THE CHURCH.

There are word pictures that describe the nature of WHO WE ARE:

#### **A FLOCK OF SHEEP... F\_\_\_\_\_ . John 10: 1-14**

*John 10: <sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—*

JESUS TRUE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHURCH: The church is NOT A DEMOCRACY... THERE IS ONLY ONE LEADER AND ONE LORD; and our duty or role is TO FOLLOW HIM.

#### **A BODY... F\_\_\_\_\_ . 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27**

*1 Corinthians 12: <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

OUR TRUE RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER: The church is ONE ORGANIZATION made up of various roles and various gifts.

#### **A BRIDE... BE F\_\_\_\_\_ . Revelations 19:6-8; Ephesians 5:25-27**

*Revelations 19: <sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.*

OUR TRUE RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR FUTURE: We are engaged to Jesus and He is getting us ready for heaven.

POINTS TO PONDER: