

The Church's One Foundation

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

I. FACTS REGARDING THE CHURCH THAT ARE BEYOND DISPUTE

- A. Jesus declared His intent to build His church - Matt. 16:13-19
- B. He promised that we will be part of the structure
 - 1. 1Cor. 3:9-11; Eph. 2:20; 1Peter 2:4-8
- C. The church is composed of all of the saved, both living and dead
 - 1. Heb. 12:22-24
- D. There is only one church - Eph. 4:4
- E. It is the body of Christ - Eph. 1:22-23
- F. It began on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem, following the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ - Luke 24:49; Acts 2:1-4, 36-41, 47
- G. The Lord keeps the membership roster; only the Lord knows those who are truly His - Heb. 12:23; 2Tim. 2:19
- H. The church holy and without blemish - Eph. 5:25-27
- I. Those in the church who are sin and refuse to repent are cast out by the Lord
 - 1. John 15:2, 6; Rom. 11:19-22
- J. There is no salvation outside of the Lord's church - Eph. 5:23
 - 1. The Lord has exclusive control over who enters His church
- K. Jesus is the only head of the church in heaven and on earth
 - 1. Eph. 2:19-22; Col. 1:18
- L. Can't be divided; Hades cannot assault it - Matt. 16:18
 - 1. Heaven and earth are in harmony in the church - Matt. 16:19
- M. Death doesn't impact membership; when one dies, they are still with Christ
 - 1. Phil. 1:21-23; 1Thes. 5:10
- N. The church's name was chose by the Lord
 - 1. 1Cor. 10:32; Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:23
- O. It has an earthly organization - Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23, 20:17, 28
- P. The church is God's soul saving institution - 1Tim. 3:15

II. THE CHURCH IS BUILT ON JESUS CHRIST

- A. And we are that church; faithful, sound Christians are the Lord's Church
 - 1. Acts 11:26; 1Cor. 12:27
- B. Who work and worship together in local churches - Rom. 16:16
- C. Abiding in the apostles' doctrine
 - 1. Acts 2:42; 1Cor. 4:6, 17; Titus 2:1; 2Tim. 1:13
- D. Honoring Jesus' prayer for unity - John 17:20-21
- E. Standing against religious division in all its forms - 1Cor. 1:10; 2John 9

Conclusion:

A. She is the plan of God on earth; always in her Father's eye: Cherished, mysterious, beautiful and potent beyond measure: King empowered and life infused. She emerges triumphant; limitless with potential; a harbor for the hopeless and an answer for the ages: The church resplendent.

She is the body of Christ on earth; born, like her Head, amidst tribulation, under jealous skies. Cradled in her innocence and guarded for His purpose. She grows in wisdom and stature with victory on her lips and freedom in her hands. Hers is an unstoppable cause. She embraces the world with dignity, honor and compassion; gives vision to the sightless and life to the dying.

She is the family of God on earth. Within her compass, the spiritually hungry find sustenance and the morally weary receive strength. She is a haven for recovering humanity. She invites the broken, the vulnerable and the outcast to be immersed in love. She has a treasury of faith and a wealth of belonging.

She is the house of heaven on earth: A representative, resolute to reconcile. The Word within her accepts the receptive but challenges the heartless. She is the ecclesia, called out of the world to save and serve the world: Calling out to welcome in. Blood-washed and armed with truth, the cross on her lips liberates the chained and offends the unchanging. Like her Master she is pursued and persecuted. Yet she rises with strength in her heart and fire in her soul.

She is the bride of Christ on earth; readying herself for the day when all eyes will be upon her. Prepared and presented before the Lord: The Lamb for whom the world waits, who comes like the rising sun, majestic and magnificent beyond description, while she dazzles with His reflected glory. Spotless, perfect and mature, she bows low to cast her crowns and passionately worship Him. Her temporal focus becomes her eternal gaze. She is the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. (By Robert Fergusson)