

LESSON #7
"HOW MANY CHURCHES DID CHRIST BUILD?"

TEXTS: Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Colossians 1:18; Romans 16:16

INTRODUCTION:

The religious leaders of Jesus' day asked Him in **Matthew 19:3** if easy divorce for every cause were lawful. He answered them in verse 6, "What God has joined together, let not man put asunder." They replied that Moses had allowed easy divorce and "Everybody's doing it."

"Jesus said, "From the beginning it has not been so." This meant that regardless of how men had changed God's plan for marriage, God's will was still the same as it had been from the beginning. It has not changed even today.

The same is true of God's plan for His spiritual family, the Church. From the beginning He joined it together, but through the centuries men have divided it asunder.

FROM THE "THE" OF MATTHEW 1:1 TO THE "AMEN" OF REVELATION 22:21, WE READ OF ONLY ONE BODY, THE CHURCH.

To disprove this statement, you must change the very Word of God.

1. **Matthew 16:18** - The word church in this passage is singular.
 - a. Upon this table I will lay my watch. How many watches would there be?
 - b. Suppose I were to say, "Take the watch of your choice." You can't because there is only one.

2. There was only one church in the days of the apostles.
 - a. No one ever asked, "Which church are you a member of?"
 - b. Were the apostles members of the same church?

3. Paul teaches that there is one Body.
 - a. **Ephesians 4:4; Romans 12:4, 5; I Corinthians 12:20; Ephesians 1:22, 23**
• **Colossians 1:18**

4. "The Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains" (**Isaiah 2:2**).
 - a. **I Timothy 3:15**
 - b. **Ephesians 3:14,15** - God has only one family.
 - c. **Matthew 23:8, 9** - All Christians are brothers and sisters in Christ, and God is our Father.

The oneness of the Church (**John 15:1-7**).

We can look out at the religious world and see **ONE SHEPHERD** with many folds, **ONE VINE** with many different fruits, **ONE FATHER** with many children that are not his, **ONE HEAD**, many bodies.

HOW MANY CHURCHES DID CHRIST BUILD?

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Mat 16:18)



ONE FLOCK(John 10:16) and they shall hear my voice;

and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

ONE FAMILY (Eph 3:15) Of whom the whole family in

heaven and earth is named,

ONE HOUSE.....(John 14:2) In my Father's house are many mansions:

if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

ONE KINGDOM..... (Col 1:13) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,

and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

(Col 1:18) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

There is one body.....Eph. 4:4