

Belonging: *"I will build my church" - Jesus*

The Authentic Individual

Pastor George Hinman

Matthew 16:13-20

September 29, 2024

Introduction: You belong. And we say it a lot. Because it tells us something about you. And it tells us something about us. Because you can't belong by yourself. Belonging is a thing that requires others. To whom do we belong? And with whom do we belong? And for what purpose do we belong? These are questions Jesus answers like no one else before or since. He says, "I will build my church?" What does it mean to belong to Jesus and to the church he's still building?

Prayer: Father, help us to answer like Simon Peter did when we are asked about Jesus. Amen

Review: What did you learn about God's doing something about the "storms" of life and helping us in the midst of them?

Read: Matthew 16:13-20

Discussion:

1. Why did Jesus ask the question in verse 13 and again in verse at this point in his ministry?
2. By what power did Peter give his answer? Have you ever had a revelation about Jesus from God the Father? Explain.
3. What new identity did Jesus give to Peter? What was Peter's responsibility with his new identity? How did Peter respond? See Acts 2:14 as one example. Can you think of others?
4. Does verse 16 give you confidence that the "gates of hell" will never overcome the church being built by Jesus?
5. Verses 19 and 20 have many interpretations. What meaning do these verses have for you?

Application: This week spend some time thinking about Jesus building his church and that you are a part of it.

Prayer: Father, thank you for this great promise of Jesus that is ongoing. Amen.