

Patti Miller, Lead Pastor  
Evangel Pentecostal Church  
"We Are the Church"

What is the Church?

The Church was God's Idea

The Church matters. Your Church matters.

Matthew 16:13-18 (NLT)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

"Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. ... Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

"I will build My church."

#1

The church is a counter-cultural community.

Matthew 18:2-4 (CEV)

Jesus called a child over and had the child stand near him. Then he said:

... But if you are as humble as this child, you are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 20:25-28 (The Message)

So Jesus got them together to settle things down. He said, "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around, how quickly a little power goes to their heads. It's not going to be that way with you.

Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever

wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away his life."

Matthew 20:16 (MSG)

(It's) the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the

last first.

The Church matters.

Matthew 18:15–17, 21–22 (CEV)

If one of my followers sins against you, go and point out what was wrong. But do it in private, just between the two of you. If that person listens, you have won back a follower. But if that one refuses to listen, take along one or two others.

The Scriptures teach that every complaint must be proven true by two or more witnesses. If the follower refuses to listen to them, report the matter to the church.

... Peter came up to the Lord and asked, "How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough?" Jesus answered: Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!

#2

The Church brings good to the community it's in.

#3

The Church reveals God.

John 17:20–23 (NLT)

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.

I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

"I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

The Church matters. Your Church matters.

God, give us hearts to deeply, passionately value the church; to know that it matters, that OUR church matters.