

## **Chapter One**

### **Jesus' Commands on How to Do Church While He Was In The Flesh**

I wrote this book so Christians can know what we are supposed to be doing and how we are supposed to be doing it, according to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I note the most important truths about “How to Do Church Jesus’ Way” in boxes like this one.

It is my conviction that the lukewarm Laodicean church is doing church wrong by habit. I want those bad habits addressed in the lives of church members before they assume any tasks related to of church leadership.

Jesus owns the Church (Matthew 18:16). Jesus bought the Church with his own blood (Acts 20:28). Jesus is the head of the Church (Ephesians 5:23). Jesus is the chief Shepherd of the Church (1 Peter 5:4). Does it make sense to you that we should honor Jesus words about how to do church? It does to me. Yet, we have church after church who have other patterns for church action, such as tradition, constitution and by-laws, deacon-run churches, board-run churches, denominational-run churches and more.

I am not saying that churches that have pastors or constitutions and by-laws that pattern church life after the revealed Word of God are in error. However, there are a lot of churches that have pastors and constitution and by-laws that are not patterned after Bible truth, and therefore stand in opposition to Christ. Is it any wonder such organizations lack the presence of Christ, the blessings of God or the movement of the Holy Spirit?

After the Rapture, churches with patterns for operation that are contrary to the Scripture will continue to function in the worship of the status quo.

I did not write this book with the goal of commenting on every verse in the New Testament relative to church life, but every word that Jesus gave relative to church-life is addressed. Admittedly, Jesus did not comment on every facet of church life. The Epistles give us a more total picture. Still, I think if the owner of the Church said something about His church we should pay attention; Jesus spoke things that were closest to His heart.

The words of Jesus on "How to Do Church" are examined from the perspective of their obvious meanings and on the basis of their intent or the influence the truth revealed by Jesus words on doing church should have on His Church. For example, Jesus said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church." The obvious meaning of this verse is that the Church should not fear the power of Satan when attacking the evil of the world. The intent or influence of this verse is that if we are doing church the way Jesus would have us do church, we will be attacking the evil of the world with vigor and confidence.

Where additional New Testament verses are given that support or clarify the words of Jesus on doing church, said references will be given and discussed (where appropriate). However, this text is not intended to be a springboard for expanded presentation of words on doing church written by others. This means this book is NOT an exhaustive commentary on "How to Do Church." But, it is an exhaustive commentary on every word that Jesus gave to us about "doing church."

I exclude the words of Jesus that clearly reference Church life but have nothing or nothing significant to do with, "How to Do Church."

I exclude the words of Jesus that have any significant doubt when it comes to if the words do address, "doing church."

I include the words of Jesus even if the church is not mentioned, if I think the text was intended by Jesus to be a concept that does apply to, "How to Do Church." An example would be Matthew 18:15-18.

It is important to point out that Jesus died before the official start of the Church Age, which most would put in Acts 2. Therefore, Jesus was born as a Jew to minister to the Jewish community, primarily. Jesus' thought patterns were Jewish. Therefore, His ministry outlook was Jewish. To Jesus, the Gentile Church was a future event that he addresses only in passing before his physical death. However, He addresses the Church in great detail after his physical death.

What did Jesus say about "How to Do Church" before his death?