

September 25, 2016
100 Year Celebration Sunday
Challenges for the Future
Pastor Rick Rufenacht



Proclaim the Truth
John 17:17 Pr 23:23

Focus on Mission
1 Cor 9:19-22

Live The Kingdom
Matt 10:7 Rom 12:1

What do you think of when you think of the word Church?

What has been your experience with Church or in Church over the years?

Read Matthew 16:13 - 18

Jesus said that He would build something called the Church. That word comes from a Greek word ekklesia (ek-klay-see'-ah). It literally means "called out".

The early Church of God folk called church people "come outers".

What do you think it means that the Church is "called out"?

What are the positive connotations of that phrase?

What problems might arise when people feel "called out" from society and the culture?

What are people called out from, and what are people called to?

Jesus used two different words when telling Peter He would build His church. Jesus said, "you are Peter" (Petros), which means small stone. He then said, "and on this rock," (Petra), which means massive rock. What massive rock is Jesus referring to when He says He is going to build His church upon it? (See Matthew 16:16, Romans 10:9-10.)

Does it seem to you that the Church is still on "The Rock"? Why or why not?

What does the phrase "The gates of Hades will not overcome it" mean to us as the Church? Does it create faith or fear? Explain.

The Apostle Paul likens the Church to a body.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:13 and 1 Corinthians 12:27-28 and Romans 12:4-5.

What do these scriptures tell us about the make up of the Church and how it ought to function?

Why do you think many people are on the sidelines in the Church?

Why do many not participate?

In the book of Revelation, Jesus talks to seven area churches. He points out both positives and negatives.

Read the following passages and list the key positive focuses for the Church.

Rev 2:1-6

Rev 2:8-10

Rev 2:12-13

Rev 2:18-19

Rev 3:1-4

Rev 3:7-8

Rev 3:14 - 19

Consider First Church of God. According to these passages, where would you say - well done. Where would you say - needs some work.

How can you be more involved in the Church in order to help the Church become more effective in the community?