

**Title: The Charter of Love**

Passages: Matthew 16:13-20; 18:15-20, 28:18-20

Sermon Series: Marks of a Healthy Church

**Main Point**

Jesus authorizes His Church to:

1. Proclaim & protect the gospel
2. Recognize & affirm those who credibly profess Him
3. Unite them to itself
4. Oversee & nurture their discipleship
5. Exclude any non-credible professors

**Matthew 16:13-20**

- A right belief & personal profession of faith (v16-17)
- Formal affirmation & recognition of identity & faith (v17-18)
- Peter the first person in Jesus’ church/assembly (v18)
- The Church: Assembly of those who rightly profess Jesus as Saviour & Lord (v18)

Church – Generally means assembly or gathering of people.

(In the bible it’s specifically the assembly of Jesus’ disciples or God’s people)

**3 Pictures on Church & Authority (v18-19)**

**Key Concept: Adding people to Jesus’ church assembly**

Picture	Action	Object
Building	Adding	Bricks (rocks)
Keys	Opening/Closing	Kingdom of Heaven
Binding/Loosing	Holding together/Letting go	People

*Interpretation*

- Keys are a symbol of authority
- Kingdom of Heaven: Wherever God’s rule is lived out and obeyed (Luke 17:20-21)

*Conclusion*

- The church has the key to allow people to enter into God’s Kingdom reign on earth
- The church opens the way into God’s rule by binding them to Jesus’ assembly (church) on earth

**Matthew 18:15-20**

- The power to bind & to loose is given to the church (v17-18)
- Loosing means to unaffirm someone’s profession & exclude them from the church (v17-18)

- Church can consist of as little as 2-3 people (v20)
- Church assembly where there is mutual affirmation of faith (v17,20)

### **Matthew 28:18-29**

#### ***Great Commission: Tying it All Together***

- Jesus gives the authority in the “keys” knowing he will be given “all authority” (16:9, 28:18)
- Baptism, a ritual to affirm someone’s identity into a group only makes sense with Jesus teaching about adding people to his church beforehand (16:19, 28:19)
- Baptizing and gathering in God’s Name with the promise of God presence marks important connection (18:20, 28:19-20)

#### **Church Passage Connections**

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will **give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and **whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven**, and **whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**” 20 Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ. (Matthew 16:13-20)

15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly, I say to you, **whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven**, and **whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.** 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where **two or three are gathered in my name**, **there am I among them.**” (Matthew 18:15-20)

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “**All authority in heaven and on earth** has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always, to the end of the age.**” (Matthew 28:18-20)