

“CREED: I believe in the Holy Catholic Church”

Sunday, August 6, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI

Pastor Jonathan DeCou

Matthew 16:13-19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:1-5

BIG IDEA: I believe: The Church is God’s ordained and redeemed representative body on Earth.

*“...on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”
Matthew 16:18b (CSB)*



I believe the Church belongs to Jesus Christ.

- I believe Jesus said, “I will build my Church”.
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I believe the Church provides for:

- Identity.
- Unity.
- Accountability.
- Opportunity.

- Productivity.
- Generosity.
- Community.

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READ: Matthew 16:13-19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:1-5

THINK: Reflect on the nature and purpose of the Church of Jesus Christ, then ask yourself these questions: *What does it practically mean for us that Jesus Christ is the Originator of the Church? How does the New Testament make a distinction between the “Universal” Church and the “Local” Church? Why is local Church commitment important and what does that look like for individual believers from a biblical perspective?*

DO: On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being the least and 10 being the greatest), if every believer followed your example, how strong would the Church be? From the points in today’s message on how local Church commitment provides for IDENTITY, UNITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, OPPORTUNITY, PRODUCTIVITY, GENEROSITY, and COMMUNITY, which of these have been most impactful in your local Church experience? Which of these do you need to help strengthen right here in our local Church?