



**The Church as
Designed by God**

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

May 31, 2026

... on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
– Matthew 16:18

The church is not something we have made, nor is it merely a social gathering or an invisible worldwide idea. It is Christ's people, lovingly joined to Him and devoted to one another in a visible local body.

God's Design of the Church

- I. The Church Is Built on the _____
(Mt. 16:16-18)
Cp. 1 Cor. 3:11; Acts 4:12

- II. The Church _____ to _____ (Mt. 16:18)
Cp. Acts 20:28

- III. The Church Is Meant to Be _____,
and _____ (Mt. 18:15-17)
Cp. Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 5:12-14

- IV. The Church will _____ (Mt. 16:18)
Cp. Is. 40:18; Ps. 90:2; Matt. 25:46; 1 Cor. 3:12-14; Eph. 3:20-21

So What ...

Bridging from Philemon ... if Holiness grows ONLY in a _____ ... then a church filled with imperfect people becomes a perfect place for the _____, _____, and _____ of Christ to be spread abroad.

Are you a part of Christ's Church? Have you been born into His _____? Are you connected with His _____?

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

THE LORD'S TOP PRIORITY—RELATIONSHIPS!

Father God, You emphatically and repeatedly state that our relationships with YOU and with OTHERS are Your top priority. You also clearly state that all principles, laws, and commandments are facets of how our relationships are to be lived out. We demonstrate our love for You and for others by OBEYING Your precepts. Our actions are to be determined by Your truths, not our emotions.

[Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:30-31; Luke 10:27; John 14:15, 23 for starters]

LORD, OPEN MY EYES AND WORK IN MY HEART. MAY I DEMONSTRATE LOVE.

Wherever there appears to be discord, may we give thanks that the discord is now in the open...not festering and growing inside of us. May we look at the discord as a prompt from You, Lord, to seek Your will in the relationship. May we base our decisions and actions on Your truths...not our emotions, not our own understanding. Open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to receive You and love the way You love. May we be moldable in Your hands as clay is to the potter. Help me not to judge others, but to be their prayer warrior for You to move in their lives. May OUR top priority be You and Your will in relationships, just as it is YOUR top priority.

[Ps. 51:10; Jer. 18:1-17; Rom. 8:27; Col. 2:2; 1 Thess. 3:12; Matt. 7:1-5 for starters]

GOD, HELP US CHANGE INGRAINED AND DESTRUCTIVE THOUGHT PATTERNS!

Lord, I come to You in stillness and ready to listen. Reveal to me where I am closing my eyes, ears, and heart to You. Show me, Lord, where I grieve You. Light my path, Father, to where I must choose Your ways over my thoughts and emotions. May You be glorified in my relationships as You lead and guide me. You say you are in the midst of us wherever two or three are gathered. I pray that we constantly listen for You as we navigate through rough relationships.

[Matt. 6:33; Romans 14:13; John 13:34; Eph. 4:2-3; James 5:16; 1 John 5:16 for starters]

Father, I choose to write down all You speak to me about my relationships—where I need to repent, restore, validate. I am accountable to You to live out Your commands. Help me avoid justifying my actions. May You be glorified.



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God's Design of the Church

- I. The Church Is Built on the Right Confession (Mt. 16:16-18) Cp. 1 Cor. 3:11; Acts 4:12
II. The Church Belongs to Christ (Mt.16:18) Cp. Acts 20:28
III. The Church Is Meant to Be Visible, Local and Active (Mt.18:15-17) Cp. Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 5:12-14
IV. The Church will Endure (Mt.16:18) Cp. Is. 40:18; Ps. 90:2; Matt. 25:46; 1 Cor. 3:12-14; Eph. 3:20-21

So What ...

Bridging from Philemon ... Holiness grows ONLY in a messy community ... then a church filled with imperfect people becomes a perfect place for the grace, love, and forgiveness of Christ to be spread abroad.

Are you a part of Christ's Church? Have you been born into His Family? Are you connected with His Local Body?

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Four horizontal lines for writing.