

HEARTWIRED

CHURCH BUILDING, TOGETHER

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus states His mission to be to ‘*build HIS church.*’ At Central, we intentionally and sacrificially partner with local leaders leading local churches in strategic places because churches are ‘*built*’ not ‘*planted.*’

Matthew 16:18; 18:15-17; 21:33-34 • 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9 • Luke 6:46-48 • Ephesians 5:31-32 • Proverbs 29:18

1. If someone asked you to define ‘the church’ how would you?
2. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said that ‘on this rock’ He would build His church. What do you think the ‘rock’ is, to which Jesus refers?
3. To build and to plant are very different, albeit equally faithful and valuable actions.
 - a. Read Matthew 13:1-9, and 18-23 alongside 1 Peter 1:21-2:3. What are the similarities in these Scriptures and what does it tell us about how ‘sowing’ and ‘planting’ apply to us now?
 - b. Read 1 Peter 2:4-10 with Matthew 16:18 in mind. What does ‘building’ look like from these verses?
 - c. What do you consider to be the implication of building the church with ‘living stones’? How does a living stone differ from a stone?
4. Pastor Craig frequently says that Central’s vision for the church is based on the need for organizational discipleship not just personal discipleship. Things that God builds have organizational qualities to them. How does ‘restraint’ and ‘keeping the law’ (Proverbs 29:18) help us ‘build the church’, or anything important for that matter?
5. Is it possible for a believer to have ‘planted’ a dream when they should have also ‘built’ for it? In what areas of life can we plant and wait when what we also must do is ‘build’ and ‘work on’?
 - a. How do we know when we are to wait and when we are to work?
 - b. What principles do you have to help you know when to wait and when to work?
6. Read Ephesians 5:31-32. Geoffrey Bromley says of this verse: “*As God made man in His own image, so He made earthly marriage in the image of His own eternal marriage with His people*” (God and Marriage, p. 43).

To what degree do the lessons we learn from marriage help us understand how God builds his church?