

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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**“WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE CHURCH
OF THE LIVING GOD”**

**SERIES: The Foundations on Which We Stand – Why We Believe
What We Believe!**

Ephesians 5:25; 1 Timothy 3:15; Matthew 16:13-19

As we continue our series on “The Foundations On Which We Stand – Why We Believe What We Believe.” Today we are going to examine what the Bible says about “The Church of the Living God.”

Let’s pay particular attention to what the apostle said in the first two passages that we read from **Ephesians** and **1 Timothy**. First, we are challenged to *“love our wives as Christ loved the church.”* (**Eph.5:25**) The question would be then how did Jesus love the church. Well, He loved it with all of His heart, and He loved it sacrificially, He gave His life and blood for it. Then in **1 Timothy 3**, Paul talked about the qualification of the Pastor and Deacons in the local church then he makes a very profound statement concerning the local New Testament church in **V-15**. Now understand a very important truth, that the **“CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF TRUTH”** is **NOT a Denomination**, it is not Baptist, or Methodist or Catholic or anything else, but rather simply, **a local New Testament is a Assembly of Born Again Believers who gather together and worship the Lord Jesus Christ**. Like BBC of Erie or the or any other Bible Believing local church. Paul describes the Bride and Body of Christ as *“the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”*. First, we see...

I. THE SAVING CONFESSION OF THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD

Now what **MUST WE CONFESS?** Here's what you must believe in order to be saved? You must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. (**Matt. 16:14-16**) I want you to think about this saving confession and listen to me very carefully. Put it down— this was a...

1. A PERSONAL CONVICTION V-17

**2. IT WAS ALSO A PERSONAL CONFESSION OF CHRIST –
Rom. 10:9-10**

3. IT WAS A PERSONAL CONVERSION – V-18. Now you have become a piece of the rock. Now I say to you that's what a New Testament church is built

upon. Nobody is qualified for membership in this church, or any church out there, who does not believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, who's not willing to confess openly and publicly and unashamedly that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and has had a transformation by receiving Jesus Christ into their heart and into their life.

Secondly . . .

II. THE SOVEREIGN CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD

Look now at **V-18** again. Now the church is sovereignly constructed. Jesus did not say, *“You will build my church.”* He didn't say, *“I will build your church.”* Jesus said, *“upon this rock I will build my church...”* We're not talking about this building here. **This building is just a sheep shed**. This is not the church. This is where the church meets. You the people are the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, Jesus is the architect of the church. Jesus is the builder of the church. And Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church.

Thirdly-

III. THE SPIRITUAL COMPOSITION OF THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD

What is the composition of the church? What does He, build the church out of? Out of stone, living stone. Now Simon Peter knew he was not the foundation (**1 Peter 2:5**). Now the very word church - He says, “... I will build my church...”- it's the Greek word *ekklēsia*, and it means a **called-out assembly**. What the Lord Jesus Christ is doing is in Erie, He's calling out some people to assemble together for worship of Christ Jesus the Lord. What is the mortar that holds Bible Baptist Church together? It is love. We are bound together by love for Him and each other.

Can you be a Christian without being a church member?

Absolutely you can! However, I guess you could have a bee without a hive, and a sailor without a ship, and a parent without a family. In my estimation, if you're truly saved, you're going to want to be part of a New Testament Bible Believing church that assembles together as a family for worship. Remember the great confession? Peter says of Jesus, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* Can you say that? Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ? Do you believe He's the Messiah? What does that mean? He's the one who paid for your sin with His blood on the cross. Do you believe it? Are you willing to confess it openly and publicly and identify yourself with a local Bible Believing preaching, practicing NT church? Why not do that **TODAY?**