



# Taking the Journey at Church

“...upon this rock I build  
my church...”

# The Jerusalem Council

Placing conditions on what constitutes being a Christian leads to legalism and serves no purpose other than bondage. Even those who declare the laws that define what Godly is cannot keep from violating their own laws.

**Paul said do nothing that would hinder a person from getting to know Jesus Christ.**

Romans 14:11-13 KJV

[11] For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. [12] So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. [13] Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

**Jesus also mentions against hindering others when he likens us to the innocence of children desiring him.**

Matthew 19:14 KJV

[14] But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

## ***Keeping the Church on Course:***

*Keep the focus outward*

A church can become a machine and start to distance itself from its original purpose.

*The best thing a church can do is to keep aligned with the Holy Spirit*

- *Make the pathway clear*
- *Traditional and ritual clutter*
- *Preferential clutter*
- *Soapbox clutter - opinion override*
- *Organizational clutter/Territorial clutter*
- *Maintenance vs. Mission*
- *Programs vs purpose*

***My Commitment to a Strong Church:***

Does my actions towards the church help or harm the church?

**When Jesus told Peter “..upon this rock I build my church..” It was not Peter that Jesus was referring to but rather his answer, “thou art the Christ,” that Peter responded with when Jesus asked him the question, “..whom say ye that I am?”**

Matthew 16:13-20 KJV

[13] When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? [14] And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. [15] He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? [16] And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. [17] And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. [18] And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [19] And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. [20] Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

## ***Characteristics of a Strong Church:***

- 1. Spirit filled leadership*
- 2. Doctrinally sound message*
- 3. Uncompromising in conviction, Bible based*
- 4. Strong emphasis on faith and prayer*
- 5. The worship service should renew each member's faith and commitment to God*
- 6. Faithful and generous in their giving*
- 7. Strategically organized to reach God given goals*
- 8. Serving in the strength of their spiritual gifts*
- 9. United in their spirit*
- 10. Genuine love for one another*
- 11. A vision for the lost world that would result in the going of some and the giving of all*