

Main Question: What should it mean when I say, "This is my church?"

When I say "This is My Church" I should mean:

1. There are specific believers I am committed to encouraging on a regular basis

Hebrews 10:24-25, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Hebrews 3:13, "¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:9-11**
- **1 Corinthians 14:12,**
- **Ephesians 4:29,**
- **1 John 3:18,**
- **John 13:35**

When I say "This is My Church" I should mean:

2. I've decided to entrust my spiritual care to a particular group of pastors/elders

Hebrews 13:17, "¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

- **Titus 1:9**
- **1 Peter 5:2-3,**

When I say "This is My Church" I should mean:

3. There are specific believers that I expect to correct and confront me

Matthew 18:15-20, "¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

When I say "This is My Church" I should mean:

4. There are specific believers that I am committed to spread the gospel with

Philippians 1:27, “²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel...”

When I say “This is My Church” I should mean:

5. This is the church that has gladly accepted me and affirmed my faith

1 Corinthians 5:1-13, “It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife. ² And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

³ For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵ you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰ not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

Answering Some Objections:

1. But, I don’t know how long I’m going to be here!

2. I have “this” problem with the church:

- Ephesians 4:2
- Colossians 3:13

3. I’m just not connecting

Closing exhortation: Be the Christian that builds up your church

- Be genuinely converted - believe in and trust the gospel daily (Galatians 5:19-21)
- Be the rejoicing member (Philippians 4:4-7)
- Be the praying member
- Be the grateful member
- Be the member who wants responsibility more than authority
- Be the member who Remembers