Misconceptions about the Church

 Matthew 16:14-18

 Sometimes we have misconceptions about something. Misconception is a misunderstanding of something perceived inaccurately. An example of a misconception is that Sally believes that eating turkey is the only reason people get tired on Thanksgiving. That is a mistaken belief, or a wrong idea. Harry said to Sally over Thanksgiving dinner, while turkey has some ingredients that can make you feel sleepy, it had less milligrams in a 3ounce serving than chicken. Yet, we don’t believe that chicken makes us sleepy. In actuality, eating desserts and a lot of overeating could potentially cause persons to feel sluggish. So, this is in fact a misconception.

Another misconception is that people only like to attend large churches which is inaccurate.

1. Intro
2. There are a lot of Sally’s in our world today.
3. They don’t fully understand what something is really all about.
4. They take bits and pieces of what they hear or read and put them together to form their opinion or belief about something.
5. Like Sally, they have a little bit of knowledge and they fill in the blanks themselves.
6. There are many Sallies when it comes to the Church.
7. They pick up a little bit here and add a little there.
8. When they do this, they can develop a view of the Church that is not accurate.
9. They end up with misconceptions about the Church.
10. Like Harry, we need to clear up these misconceptions of the Church.
11. We need to make sure that we all fully understand what the church is all about.
12. Over the next several weeks, we’re going to address some of the misconceptions that formed concerning the church and its functions.
13. We’re going to examine some misconceptions concerning worship, ministry missions, discipleship and evangelism.
14. We’re going to look at some of these misconceptions, and then, hopefully, we’re going to clear them up.
15. But before we address the misconceptions of the church’s functions, today let’s address the misconceptions of the church itself.
16. In our passage, Jesus reveals a wonderful truth.
17. “I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18)
18. Let’s examine the context of this sentence.
19. Jesus has asked his disciples who do people say He is.
20. They say, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and other Jeremiah or one of the prophets. (Matthew 16:14)
21. Then Jesus asked them, “But who do you say that I am? (Matthew 16:15
22. This was the big moment!
23. The disciples had been with Jesus for quite some time.
24. They had walked with Him, watched Him, and listened to Him.
25. What had they decided about this Jesus they were following?
26. Peter speaks for all of them.
27. “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”
28. Jesus tells them that they’re right, and they didn’t come up with this on their own; God had revealed it to them.
29. And Jesus says, “On this rock”, on this confession you have just made, “I will build my church.”
30. What kind of church was Jesus going to build?
31. What would this church look like, what would it consist of?
32. What is this church, The Church?
33. Some Misconceptions of the Church.
34. Since Jesus spoke those words, many opinions have formed about this church.
35. Misconception #1; The Church is a Building.
36. Some say the church consists of buildings
37. The church is made up of the Sanctuary, the Education Building and the Fellowship Hall.
38. We perpetuate this misconception all the time.
39. When we got up this morning, where were you going? To Church
40. When people ask you tomorrow what you did this morning, you’ll say, “I went to church.”
41. Where is the church?
42. Oh, it’s down the street, a couple of blocks.
43. Many would say the church is just a building, a location, or a place to go.
44. But, let’s be clear the word tells us not to forsake the fellowship of believers. Who do you plan on bringing to church on July 11, Everyone Bring One Sunday?
45. Misconception #2: The Church is only an organization
46. We have officers.
47. We have rules and regulations.
48. We have set times to meet.
49. We have membership requirements.
50. We’re an organization.
51. The only difference between us and the Rotary Club or Kiwanis Club, or the Steelworker’s Union is what our focus is.
52. They do their thing and the church does its thing.
53. The church is no more important than any other organization.
54. Many would say that the church is just an organization.
55. Misconception #3: The Church Exists to Serve Me
56. When things aren’t going right in my life, I go to church and they should take care of me.
57. I don’t have to do anything for the church; they have to do everything for me.
58. If they don’t serve me like I think they ought to, I’ll find another church that will.
59. I should be the central figure of the church.
60. Misconception #4: We Become part of the church by joining it.
61. We find a church we like.
62. And we join it.
63. We get our name on the organization rolls.
64. These are some of the misconceptions about the church
65. The thing about misconceptions is that they usually have some truth in them.
66. But misconceptions consist of half-truths and are therefore fully wrong.
67. I want to clear some of these misconceptions
68. Biblical Truths about the Church
69. The Church is the Body of Christ
70. “And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” (Ephesians 1:22-23)
71. “And he is head of the body, the church” (Col. 1:18)
72. The church is an extension of Jesus Christ.
73. He is the Head; those who make up the church are His body.
74. What Jesus did when He was physically on the earth, the Church, His Body, now does.
75. The Church is not an organization but an Organism.
76. “Now you are the body of Christ.” (I Cor. 12:27)
77. Our churches do have organization and our churches do have structure.
78. But these organizations and structures are only tools of the church, not the church itself.
79. The church is the body of the Living Lord.
80. The church is the presence of Jesus Christ in the world today.
81. We are His presence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. We house the Holy Spirit within us therefore God is inside of us.
82. We are the Church Building
83. “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?” (I Cor. 3:16)
84. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” (Eph. 2:22)
85. The church gathers together in buildings.
86. But the buildings we gather in are not the church.
87. We just sang; we are the church.
88. The people who make up the church are the church buildings of God.
89. God’s Spirit dwells in us; we are occupied by God.
90. Wherever we are and wherever we go, we are the church.
91. The Church exists to serve God and Each Other
92. To him be glory in the church.
93. The church’s primary reason for existence is to worship God and give him the glory.
94. To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:12)
95. The Church should serve you. But you should serve others who are the Church.
96. We Become Part of the Church by believing.
97. So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41)
98. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.” (Acts 5:14)
99. Are you a part of the Church because you joined or are you a part of the church because you believed?