

Word Notes Sunday 08/05/16
Tony Hodge: Builders 2 – The Church

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday, listen to the podcast if you missed the talk <http://www.newmarketcommunitychurch.co.uk/podcasts.htm>.)

Key Text: Matthew 16:15-19

It's OK to be passionate. With just three years to communicate his mission and pass it on to the disciples, Jesus needed to be passionate. Last week we saw his passion for The kingdom, this week we consider his passion for his church. Look again at the text - Those have to be some of the most powerful words ever spoken, one of the key points in all of creation and it's about the church. Full-on passion and intent. Empowering to the extreme. Did you know that's what you're part of? Let's dissect that a bit:

- **I will build** - and if we've learned anything from our Bible overview it's that when God says something will be, it will! No mere human, no nation no-thing can prevent it happening. Whatever disaster you might think has or may befall the Church it WILL be built.
- **On what?** – The revelation of Jesus the Christ and the faith of believers.
- **It's "to come"** - I WILL build. Will be victorious. From a small beginning, a few men in a field, starts a movement that will change the world and culminate in Jesus' return to a resplendent bride.
- **The keys to The Kingdom!** What more might you want? Thor has his hammer, Capt America his shield – here, have some keys. But what do they do? Unlock the Kingdom and bring the physical into line with the spiritual. Loose blessings and bind the enemy.
- **For You** - If we are inheritors of the Great Commission then we the Church inherit this authority.
- **What do we do?**- Get back to the beginning:
 - Jesus' Mission statement - Good News to the poor etc. Luke 4:18-21 (Is 61:1-2).
 - Great Commission: Go Make disciples, baptise & teach about Jesus. (Matt 28:18-20) Gospel based.

Let's do this with PASSION, the same passion that Jesus had:

"Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her** to make her holy....." (Ephesians 5:25, 26)

Application (*this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points*)

What are you passionate about? Ask 2 or 3 people to share one of their passions **in just 2 minutes** – this could be a person, an activity, an organisation (eg a football club) or something else. One person should feed back on the things they heard that convinces them the speaker is passionate.

What passions do you share with other people , what fuels that joint passion?

Read Revelations 2:3 & 4. In what ways can the term "first love" be understood? How is Jesus your "first love"? (*Hint: if you have a thesaurus look up "first", refer to the Greek usage here if you have a copy of "Strong's"*)

In what ways do you share Jesus' passion for his church? What fuels that passion?

What is our role in the building of Christ's church? You can find clues in Matt 15:16-19, Matt 28:18-20, Luke 4:18-21& Eph 5:25, 26.

How do you do that in practice?

Witness (*this is the bit where the cell talks, plans and prays about how to share the Good News*)

How will your cell group be involved in the church's mission this year?