



Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati
405 West Seventh Street
Cincinnati, OH 45203
(513) 381-3858
www.union-baptist.net
Rev. Dr. Orlando Yates, Pastor

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Haven't you wondered at times if the church is that big a deal? I sure have. I mean, compared to the keen-thinking scientific, educational, and political minds that impact humanity, of what importance are a few dozen people in some white, clapboard building singing 'In the Sweet By and By'?

Yet, unless we've recently excised Matthew 16:18 from our Bibles, it still says what Jesus said. It includes a promise that the church is His personal project and that it will be perpetually invincible. That means all these other hot items, no matter how impressive and intimidating, will ultimately cool off and be replaced.

Years ago I heard my longtime friend Jay Kesler give a splendid talk entitled "Why I Believe in the Local Church." I pass along his five reasons to you. First, where else will you hear truth about death, judgment, relationships, meaning in life, and eternal destinies? Second, the church gives dignity to mankind in a day when humanity is lost in a meaningless quest for self. Third, it provides a moral compass in a society awash in relativism. Fourth, in the church people unselfishly care, because the Spirit of God is at work, weaving lives together. Fifth, more than any other institution, the church has provided schools, hospitals, and organizations of mercy.

No, the church isn't perfect (we're part of it, aren't we?) and it hasn't always modeled its message. But whatever is next in order of importance is a distant second – and I mean way down the line.

See you next Sunday. That's when the body and the Head meet to celebrate this mysterious union when ordinary, garden-variety folks like us gather around the preeminent One. No matter how it may appear to others, if it's something God has chosen, it is a big deal. AMEN.

Here Me When I call [Connecting With A God Who Cares]
~ Dr. Charles R. Swindoll

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18 – 20

