

## THE DYNAMIC CHURCH

Matthew 16:13–28 or 16:13–19

Tony Evans

The church is the most important institution on earth. The church, and only the church, has been commissioned by the sovereign Lord to be His representative agency in history. It has been given sole authority to unlock the treasures of the spiritual realm so that they can be brought to bear on the realities of earth.

Thus, as the church goes so goes everything else. God designed the church to be the epicenter of culture, and the church's strength or weakness is a major determining factor in the success or failure of human civilization. When the church is strong, the culture is impacted positively—even if the “powers that be” in a particular place don't realize that impact and seek to marginalize and persecute the church. But when the church is weak, its influence deteriorates and so does the culture.

OSWALD CHAMBERS {AD 1874–1917}

Rehabilitation means the putting back of the whole human race into the relationship God designed it to be in, and this is what Jesus Christ did in redemption. The church ceases to be a spiritual society when it is on the lookout for the development of its own organisation. The rehabilitation of the human race on Jesus Christ's plan means the realisation of Jesus Christ in corporate life as well as in individual life. Jesus Christ sent apostles and teachers for this purpose—that the corporate Personality might be realised. We are not here to develop a spiritual life of our own, or to enjoy spiritual retirement; we are here so to realise Jesus Christ that the body of Christ may be built up.

*reflection*

1. What was God's purpose in establishing the church?
2. In your experience, how is the church different from other social groups and organizations?
3. What makes a church dynamic and powerful?

For your next devotional reading, go to page 1100.