


**Matthew 16:13–20** - Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

**1 Why is Christ's identity foundational for the church?**

 *What is at stake if the wrong “Jesus” is the architectural designer?*

**2 How do you think your unbelieving neighbors and coworkers would answer Jesus' question in (Matt.16:15) “Who do you say that I am?”**

 *How could a similar question be used to establish an gospel conversation?*

**3 How would you respond to a neighbor who asked, “Why don't you recognize the Pope as legitimate?”**

 *Who is the true head of the church, and how do know?*

