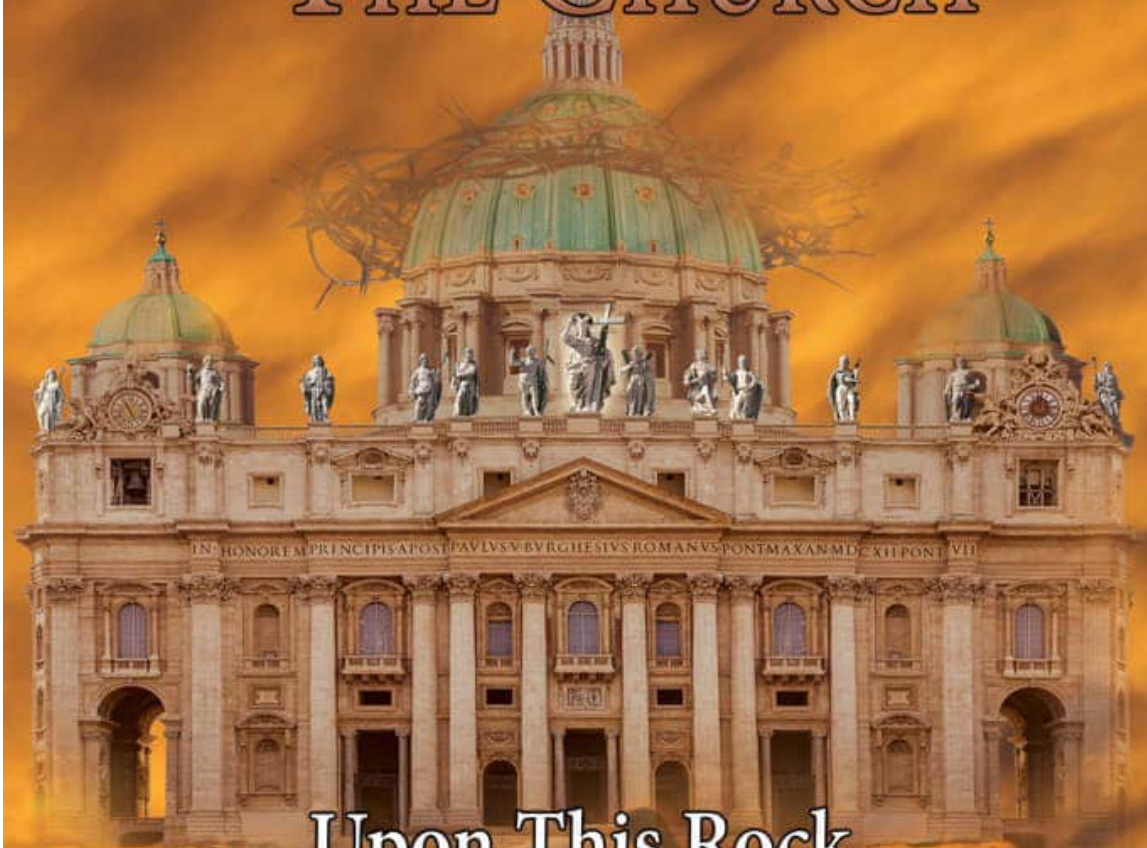
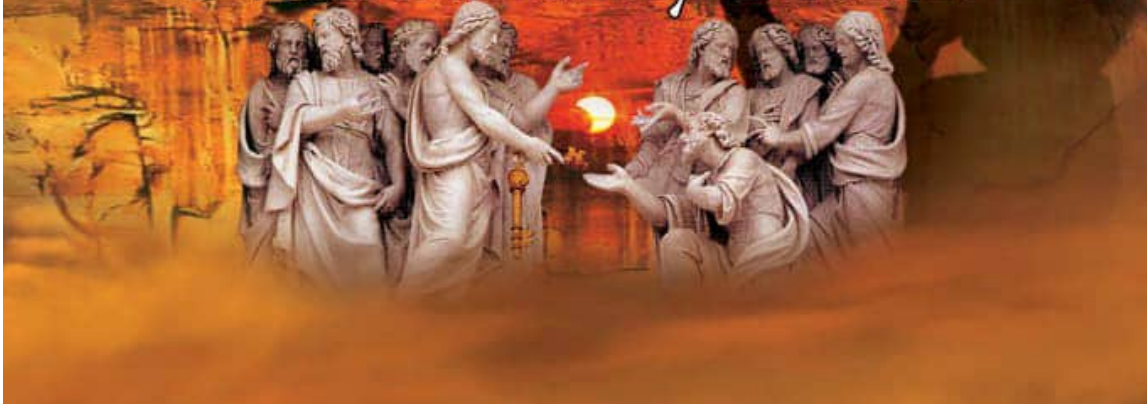


UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH



Upon This Rock
I Will Build My Church





Author: R. Lindemann

Author Bio

With over four decades in contract-engineering, this author has worked extended periods in several engineering fields, including chemical, electrical, and mechanical engineering, among others. This experience has offered him unique insight into key aspects of our physical and chemical world. Having also been heavily involved in the detailed data analysis that is required in various engineering fields, he was able define many core connections between physics, chemistry, our bodies, human behavior, and even how it all affects our beliefs and our decisions.

Addition Bio Info

After having extensively studied the physical sciences, he began to see irrational theories being consistently spread abroad to the masses, theories which now have become socially accepted as “settled scientific fact”. His position is that when dealing with any of the sciences, accuracy is paramount to having true understanding of any topic. He states that, “People’s desire to push their own agenda, all too often overrides their accuracy and turns into a system of beliefs and denial of actual evidence, rather than accurate evaluation of the information using true science.”

He feels that true human logic is important and that it has been overridden through methods of modern indoctrination. In effort to help others navigate through the fog of misinformation and enhance their own understanding, he has gone through the process of writing many books on some of the most prominently misunderstood topics.

His current bibliography includes the books *Bending the Ruler* about astrophysics, *Dream Thin* a plain language instruction manual to understand weight loss, and his four-book *Life Corner Stone Series* which includes the books *Hot Water*, *Red Hot Marriage*, *Strong Family*, and even *Understanding Prayer* exploring the effectiveness of prayer and its effects on our bodies and whether or not prayer to a higher power is scientifically realistic. He also wrote the five-volume series called *The Science Of God* analyzing the viability of the Genesis Creation account and the Global Biblical flood. To get your own copy of these or his other books, visit RLindemann.com or search “R Lindemann” on your preferred book retailer’s website or wherever books are sold.

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Understanding The Church

Sample Interview Questions

For additional discussion points, see the detailed Table Of Contents following this page.

- 1.) What interested you in writing, and when did you decide to become an author?
- 2.) What made you want write a book about The Church and ***Understanding The Church***?
- 3.) Why did you to write ***Understanding The Church***, rather than a book about religion?
- 4.) What was your childhood like regarding religion?
- 5.) Did you go to parochial school? And if so, what was the religious teaching program like?
- 6.) You're obviously Catholic. So, how much do you know about the Catholic faith?
- 7.) Were both of your parents Catholic?
- 8.) Why is The Church topic so important that you wrote ***Understanding The Church***?
- 9.) There are a lot of people searching for the right religion. What would you like to tell them?
- 10.) What is your view on *works*-based Salvation versus *faith*-based Salvation?
- 11.) Why specifically did you call the book "***Understanding The Church - Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church***"?
- 12.) Why will people be interested in reading ***Understanding The Church***?

Please mention: To get your own copy of *Understanding The Church - Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church* visit RLindemann.com, or search "R Lindemann" on your preferred book retailer's website or wherever books are sold.

When searching, spell the name: "R space L-I-N-D-E-M-A-N-N"

Other Books by R. Lindemann

Bending The Ruler
Time Travel,
The Speed of Light,
Gravity,
and The Big Bang

The Science Of God
Volume 1
The First Four Days

The Science Of God
Volume 2
Day Three
Gravity, Land, Seas,
and
Evolution of Plants

The Science Of God
Volume 3
Day Five and Day Six
The Creatures
Revolution or Evolution

The Science Of God
Volume 4
Day Six
Evolution versus Man
In Our Image

The Science Of God
Volume 5
Boats, Floods, and Noah
The Deluge

Understanding The Bible
The Bible How-To Manual
AND
The Things We Don't See

Hot Water
Your Perceived Identity
The Life Repair Manual

Red Hot Marriage
Made in Heaven
Filled with Passion and Joy
The Marriage Manual

Strong Family
A Foundation of Rock
The Family Repair Manual

Understanding Prayer
Why Our Prayers Don't Work
The Prayer How-To Manual

Thank You GOD
Finding Gratitude in Hard Times

Understanding The Church
Upon This Rock
I Will Build My Church

Dream Thin
The Weight Loss
Repair Manual
Lose Weight While Sleeping



R Lindemann

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Introduction

Many of the topics in this book have been in my head for decades being thought upon every now and again to try to best understand what religion is and, more to the point, what the “Church” is about. Where did it come from and what is its purpose, and for that matter, what does the word “church” even mean?

The Church has its dogma and all sorts of rules and regulations concerning the “sacraments”, but do these rules matter to people outside of the church? Will you “go to hell” if you’re not part of the Catholic church? There’s a balance in life and in Truth regarding the church and its reach and limits within our lives.

Does the Church trespass against us? Does it lead us into temptation? Between the point at which I decided I needed to write this book, and the time I actually began to write it, things changed—a lot! But the truth is that things did not really change much during that time, rather things were *exposed* during that time and those changes did somewhat effect the content scope of this book.

While the exposures of the church have been devastating to the church and will be partly addressed, this book is not about those issues. This book is here to help others to better understand what the Church is and what the purpose of the Church is and whether or not we are a part of it. But if we are not a part of it, then when can we become a part of it? And exactly how do we do that? With Baptism? First Communion? Marriage? What makes someone actually be part of the Church? And further, do we even want to be a part of the Church?

The answer to all of these questions begins with a simple statement: It all depends. So, what are these questions dependent upon? To answer that we must try to understand what exactly the “Church” is.

Before reading on, ask yourself right now: What do you currently say that the Church is? In a single sentence, how would *you* explain the Church?

Chapter 1

Conceiving a Church

What is “The Church”? It’s likely not what most of us think it is. To begin to Understand The Church and the whole point of it, we first have to acknowledge that there is a Creator who we refer to as “God”. This means that we have to back up a bit all the way back to Creation. Was the universe Created or was it an accidental occurrence? If it was accidental or somehow just happened and there is no God, then there’s less need for a book like this one. Yet, even to a great extent, Understanding the Church can be done outside of the whole Creator/God aspect. Although without God, regardless of what the “Church” is, it would not exist today in any form.

When discussing subjects like religion and politics, we all tend to get a bit defensive when even the smallest detail of our chosen belief is pointed out as an error. But is it justified that anyone would get defensive when the conversation is only working to find the truth? What if the other person has a specific point that makes us feel somewhat defeated, is it not best then to listen to them and hear them out? It occurs all too often where when one

Chapter 2

A Church is Born

When observing mankind you will find that we often miss God's messages whether it's through our deliberate ignorance or through our utter blindness. The dialog that God had with Adam, which is found in extra-Biblical texts, is truly an important text. There's a far more detailed account of the life of Adam and Eve describing the time after they were cast out of Paradise than is shown in the Bible alone.

The Bible is a very brief history of the seeds God planted in us, and these extra-Biblical books shed additional light on the seeds of The Church and what was to come. As a matter of fact, without these additional textual accounts, the Bible would never have acquired the prominence it now has. It is unlikely that any of the books within the Bible would ever have been penned without that prior knowledge being carried forward. This extra knowledge was so common in the early days of humanity that there was no need to include it with anything.

You can think of the Bible as the short-notes that someone might use to pass the final exam in school. Yes, there are a great

Chapter 3

My People Perish

It's probably good that we can boil down the core of God's Promises to a short prayer that can be read aloud in only thirty seconds. But then again, it's also a dangerous trap to get ourselves caught in. While it cuts right to the point, that prayer has little meaning to people without the rest of the Bible which explains the details regarding the story that the creed prayer is based upon. Even the Bible is lacking without the extra-Biblical books that exist, books which can be read by the willing.

In the Bible it says that "My People perish for lack of knowledge." Now don't confuse "lack of knowledge", with the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Knowing something is one thing, but knowing the difference between good and evil is on an entirely different level. Knowledge is one of those things that mankind seeks above all else, and the most prized bit of knowledge is to know God.

Chapter 4

The Word Made Flesh

Why does anything in the first three chapters of this book matter when trying to understand the Church? It's because it all centers around Adam and Eve eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the subsequent Promise or Covenant made to Adam and Eve by God. God told Adam "I will send My Word through your Righteous offspring", and it was that Promise that began its fulfillment at what we call Christmas.

If you have not already noticed, take note that the word Christmas contains the word *Christ* and the word *mass*. While we might not have the celebration day perfectly laid out on the calendar, we do recognize this day as the celebration of the birth of The Christ who is The Word made flesh. That is to say, Christ is the fulfillment of the Promised Redeemer who saves Adam and Eve's offspring from the grasp of Satan and eternal death.

So what? It's just another baby man, right? Ah, but He's not *just another* man. This is where the story begins to get more interesting. Most people who read this will likely have heard about Baby Jesus whose Mother never had intercourse or sex-

Chapter 5

Spirit of the Church

Peter was to be the solid foundation upon which The Christ would establish his Church, but what is this “Church” that was established upon Simon-Peter? What we today call “Christianity” flourished and floundered in its early days due to infighting and misinformation, some of which was deliberately inserted by those resisting the news of the arrival of The Christ. A few hundred years after the death of Christ the problems became so troubling that they had to come to an agreement on what would be taught and what they believed. So they formed a council at Nicaea and formalized a Creed of Nicaea or the basics of what they believed. This Creed has been slightly modified for articulation over the centuries, but has largely remained unchanged from its core principles. Here it is for your evaluation:

Chapter 6

Unity of the Church

Our ability to recite agreed upon creeds and prayers that are common to all of us is what brings and keeps us together as a people and as a Church. You can talk to a practicing Catholic, or any practicing Christian for that matter, anywhere in the world, and aside of the language barriers, they will also know the basic creeds and prayers. Think about that for a moment... this common thread throughout the entire globe binds together those who believe these creeds and prayers. In the United States and other countries we think that our Declarations and Constitutions are so wonderful, and most are, but they fail in comparison to the True creeds and prayers of the True Church. All of Christendom is unified through these beliefs. People should be in harmony, and it is these beliefs that tend to achieve that harmony when properly understood and abided by.

Atonement

“The World” has a stranglehold on most of humanity as it tries vehemently to draw us away from God. We must remember that

Chapter 7

The Schism

When churches fall away it is a sort of “schism”. They are divorcing themselves from The Christ. If you think about the seriousness of that, it is easy to see the error in it. “Divorce” means to *divert* or to *fall away*. Sometimes when a church falls away from Christ it is, in full technicality, divorced from The Christ. Divorce also happens within the church itself when people group together and the groups disagree with each other. When this occurs on a large or regional level where at one time they all were in full agreement and were therefore *at one* with each other, then all was well. But when these differences culminate to a highly contentious level, the various churches end up divorcing themselves from each other. This divergence of strong opinion is called a “schism”, which is a legal term in church law for the formal separation of the church into two or more critical doctrinal opinions. One very notable schism dates back hundreds of years to the Reformation era.

Chapter 8

Building a Temple of God

What we have discussed so far is that Christ's True Church is to be established upon the solid foundational rock of Simon-Peter. We also discussed that the Church was originally intended to stay established upon Peter, but was eventually shifted over to quietly become the church of Saul-Paul. Christ said that he would tear down the temple and build it up again in three days. And since Christ embodied the very Spirit of God, it was He who was the True "Temple of God". That's all simple enough to understand, but where things get confusing to us is in the transition from *temple* to *church*

In our modern English Bibles, it says that Christ would establish his "Church" upon Simon-Peter. He didn't say temple, he said Church. Let's investigate this briefly: What was the first temple? A temple is like a womb where we are to be nurtured and cared for through the passing along of information.

Chapter 9

The Church of Self

When you consider all of the small signs that God did in regard to prophecy, and that Christ took on himself many similar things that happened to Adam, it gets pretty difficult to rationally deny that Jesus The Christ is, in fact, The Christ who is the long-awaited Savior/Redeemer/Messiah. And further, when you study even a little bit about anthropology, you will quickly see who “God’s People” are. It is quite notably visible in most aspects of the culture of God’s People because you see it in their worship, and in their everyday-behavior, and their everyday-language. But as for Christ’s True Church, that it is quite a different story.

Most “Christians”, and most non-Christians for that matter, are more attentive to the church-of-self than we are to the Church of Christ. Our self-centered way of life blinds us from the path we ought to be on, thus causing us to veer wildly off course. When observing our self-centered–church-of-self, you can witness the wreckage from our errors strewn about nearly everywhere you

Chapter 10

The Commitment

When we embrace the True Church of Christ we become wed to Christ. It is a commitment made in front of the entire congregation as you take part in the Bread and Wine during Communion. When we violate that commitment we are divorcing ourselves as individuals from the Church body, and far worse, we are divorcing ourselves from The Christ Himself. Doing so is a one way ticket to eternal damnation. Please keep in mind that this is not referring to whether or not you *regularly* take communion, but rather that once you have taken communion then you have committed yourself to The Christ and if you violate your commitment then you are divorcing yourself from The Christ. However, God's longsuffering regarding our constant falling away allows us to repent more than once. But with this we must understand that it permanently tarnishes us a bit each time we fall away. When we do this repeatedly, it is like when a garment becomes permanently soiled through many exposures to filth. You can wash it and it will be clean, but it will no longer be pure and white. When you make the commitment,

Chapter 11

Our Part

As we work towards Understanding The Church, we must visit some of these seemingly irrelevant topics—though they are not at all irrelevant. Our own little part of the True Church of Christ might in the big picture seem insignificant, but truly it is not. For you do not know today what impact your current actions will have tomorrow. Have you ever even thought to consider that something as simple as reading a book such as the one you are reading at this very moment can affect all of your tomorrows?

What if you have some striking thought that allowed you to invent something that was helpful and good for all of the world because some simple statement in this book provoked a thought in you that you would otherwise never have had? This means that you might have affected the entire world because you read words from the author of this book, and the author also might have been inspired by someone, resulting in a decision to write the book you are now reading. And on it goes all the way back to God's Creation of Adam and Eve.

Chapter 12

The Teacher is a Good Shepherd

There is a saying that goes “When the student is ready the teacher will appear.” Not sure where that’s from, but in regard to God it is entirely false and backwards. With God the teacher is always there patiently awaiting the student. Christ is the Good Shepard and we are instructed to follow Him. You probably have heard the phrase “follow the teachings of [so and so]”. Teachers are shepherds, but not all of them are good. Far too many teachers are leading their flock of sheep to the edge of the cliff and many are leading the sheep over the edge, or in some cases they are deliberately pushing the sheep over the edge as they laugh at and mock them. Woe to those evil shepherds!

Any teacher who follows and then teaches Jesus The Christ’s teachings and abides in them is a good shepherd. But as the church and its goodness ebbs and flows, the teachings can become unstable when they are reinterpreted by unscrupulous teachers and then indoctrinated into the unsuspecting sheep.

Chapter 24

An Eternal Church

Christ's True Church will never end because it is Eternal. However, the Catholic church as we think of it will end. The term Catechism means to teach and the content of a Catechism is what we are told to teach. But should we?

Catholic Dogma

Catholic dogma is the things that the Catholic church hierarchy deems are true, which includes the Catholic catechism. This does not mean that it is true, but rather just that the Catholic church claims that the information is true. Much of it is true, but some dogma could be wrong, as discussed throughout this book.

The True Catechism is the Bible and the True dogma is the Gospel, and The Christ's True Church is comprised of all of those who do God's will and accept and believe the True Catechism and the True dogma and seek Truth and accept Jesus The Christ's Sacrifice for your Salvation. It does not matter if you are