



What is the Mission of the Church?

(What is the church to be doing?)

#1 The Church is to Glorify God



Man's chief purpose is to glorify God in all that he does.



The church is **also** to glorify God in all that it does.



The Scriptures repeatedly point this out:



Romans 15:6...

"all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." **NLT**



Ephesians 3:21...

"to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever." **NASB**



1st Peter 4:11...

"Whoever speaks, *is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God*; whoever serves *is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies*; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." **NASB**



How do we glorify God?

a) By worshipping Him



John 4:23...

"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers." **NASB**

b) Through prayer & praise



Psalms 50:23a

"But giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors me." **NLT**

c) By living a godly life



John 15:8...

"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples." **NASB**

#2 The Church is to Edify Itself (uplift, teach, improve)

Ephesians 4:11-16...

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. **NLT**

Colossians 2:7-8...

⁷ having been firmly rooted *and* now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. **NASB**

These passages are clearly telling us that the members of the church must...

- ✓ Be taught the Word of God thoroughly &
- ✓ Be taught to study & understand the Word of God for themselves



This way they will be able to stand against the heresies around them !

Jesus in His "Great Commission" said that...

- ✓ Not only should people be made disciples & baptized
- ✓ But they should thereafter be taught to "observe all" that He commanded them (Matthew 28:20)

The public church service is to be used for edification of the church.

1st Corinthians 14:26...

"Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you." **NLT**



But this is not just the church's job!



Individuals have the responsibility to also build themselves up.



2nd Peter 3:18...

"but grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ." **NASB**



Paul instructs Believers to dwell on all types of worthy knowledge.



Philippians 4:8...

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things." **NIV**

#3 The Church is to Purify Itself



Ephesians 5:25b-27...

^{25b} Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. **NLT**



The Father cleanses individual Believers



John 15:2...

"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit." **NASB**



The Father does this primarily through chastening (disciplining) the Believer



1st Corinthians 11:32...

"But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world." **NASB**



Hebrews 12:10b...

"He *disciplines us* for our good, so that we may share His holiness." **NASB**



The local church is to discipline it's own members when they refuse to repent from their sinful behavior.



Romans 16:17...

"Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them." **NASB**



1st Corinthians 5:6b-8+13...

^{6b} Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough? ⁷ Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us. ⁸ So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread of sincerity and truth. ¹³ God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you." **NLT**



2nd Thessalonians 3:6+14...

⁶ And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us. ¹⁴ Take note of those who refuse to obey what we say in this letter. Stay away from them so they will be ashamed. **NLT**



Titus 3:10-11...

¹⁰ If people are causing divisions among you, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with them. ¹¹ For people like that have turned away from the truth, and their own sins condemn them. **NLT**



2nd John 10...

"If anyone comes to your meeting and does not teach the truth about Christ, don't invite that person into your home or give any kind of encouragement." **NLT**

#4 The Church is to Evangelize the World

- i** The “Great Commission” directs the church to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations (See: [Matthew 28:19](#); [Luke 24:46-48](#); [Acts 1:8](#)).

 The Bible...

 Does not tell us to “convert” the world,
 But to “evangelize” it.

- i** Evangelism by the church takes place on multiple fronts...

- Prayer ([Matthew 9:38](#))
- Financial Support ([Philippians 4:15-18](#))
- Sending of Missionaries ([Romans 10:15](#))

- i** The church will not convert the world

 The church is not going to win the world to Christ.
 [Matthew 13:24-30 + 36-40](#) (Parable of the Tares)
 [Matthew 13:47-50](#) (Parable of the Dragnet)

 There will be no mass turning to the Lord. Life will continue as usual.

 [Luke 17:26...](#)

“And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man” **NASB**



Why?

 [1st Timothy 4:1...](#)

“Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.” **NLT**

(See also: [2nd Timothy 3:1-9](#))

#5 The Church is to Act as...

A Restraining & Enlightening Force in the World

- i** Jesus said in [Matthew 5:13-14](#) that Believers are...

- ✓ “the salt of the earth” &
- ✓ “the light of the world”

- i** Because of a Believers influence & testimony...

- They along with the Holy Spirit
- Act as a restraining force
- On the development of lawlessness.

(See: [2nd Thessalonians 2:6-7](#))

 Believers are to make known...

- ✓ God's righteous requirements of man &
- ✓ The need for repentance & regeneration.
- 🎯 To this end God has made His people the custodians of His Truth.

 **2nd Corinthians 5:19...**

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation." NASB

#6 The Church is to Promote All that is Good

 The Believer is to separate himself from all evil alliances

(See: 2nd Corinthians 6:14-18)

 The Believer is to promote that which is good

 **Galatians 6:10...**

"Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith." NLT



Jesus' practice is the best example to follow...

- He always subordinated physical and other material help to the spiritual !
- He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, though He never lost sight of His principle mission. (Acts 10:38-43)



The Believer should do all his charity work and kindnesses in such a way that it bears testimony of Christ.

 **1st Corinthians 10:31...**

"So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." NLT

 **Colossians 3:17...**

"And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father." NLT

(See also: John 2:11 + John 9:35-38)