

What is The Church? Lesson 3 – The Five Purposes of the Church

Introduction:

- The church is not a place, but a _____.

1. What is God's _____ for the church in the world?

A. The church gathers to _____ the saints.

***Eph 4.12–13** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,*

B. The church scatters to _____ the lost.

***Matt 28.18–20** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

2. The five _____ that we must do in order to fulfill the purposes of the church.

- All five areas of ministry can be seen in the early church in Acts 2.

1. The church must do _____.

***Acts 2.41** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were **added** that day about three thousand souls.*

***Acts 2.47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord **added** to their number day by day **those who were being saved**.*

***Acts 1.8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

A. The church must do evangelism _____.

- We must build _____ with unbelievers in order to evangelize them.

- We must take _____ with others and _____ for them with the love of Christ.
- Most people become a Christian as a result of a _____ or relative sharing the Christ with them.
- We must also _____ evangelistic outreach activities.

B. The church must do evangelism _____.

2. The church must do _____.

Acts 2.42 And they ***devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching*** and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Matt 28.18–20 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and ***make disciples*** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 ***teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you***. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- Discipleship is the process of growing in spiritual _____ through:
 - _____ the Bible
 - _____ the Bible
 - Being held _____ to live out the Bible.

2 Tim. 2.2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

3. The church must equip people to serve in _____.

Acts 2.45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, ***as any had need***.

- Doing ministry is the act of meeting any _____ that someone has, in the name of Jesus and for the glory of Jesus.

Matt 20.26–28 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you ***must be your servant***, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 ***even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve***, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- The role of church leadership is to help people _____ their spiritual gifts and _____ them use their gifts to benefit the church.

1 Cor 12.4–7 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 **To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

Eph 4.11–12 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 **to equip the saints** for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

- If only one leader or only a few people are doing all of the work of the ministry, then that is a clear sign that the church is not _____ as God designed it.

4. The church must meet regularly to _____.

Acts 2.42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2.46 And day by day, attending the temple **together** and **breaking bread in their homes**, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

- Biblical fellowship usually happens best in _____ gatherings.
- Our churches need to provide ways for individual Christians to:
 - Enjoy _____ fellowship
 - Practical _____ that is personal
 - Edifying spiritual _____

Heb 10.24–25 And let us consider **how to stir up one another to love and good works**, 25 **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- Biblical fellowship creates _____ relationships.

John 13.35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

5. The church must frequently _____.

Acts 2.47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- The church's worship should be _____.

- The church's greatest concern should be to help people focus on God's _____ to the maximum degree.
- The church's worship should be _____ and _____.
- The church should cultivate hearts that are _____ for Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

- We need to understand that there are two basic purposes of the church:
 - To edify Christians
 - To evangelize non-Christians.
- We must fulfill those two purposes of the church through five activities of ministry:
 - Evangelism
 - Discipleship
 - Serving in ministry
 - Fellowship
 - Worship
- We must understand that _____ of these things is the priority of the church, not just some of them.
- Everything that we set out to do as a church must _____ these things.
- If we don't do these things in the church, then we'll be _____ by things that don't fulfill God's purposes for the church.
- We must bring maximum glory to Christ in our church by doing the things He has _____ for us to do.