

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 16:13-18; 28:19-20

Introduction: People have their own ideas and definitions of the Church. Church members have their own explanation for their Church "being there." Perhaps we need to be reminded that the highest expression of the will of God until Jesus comes back concerning people is HIS Church. There just is no "service" acceptable to God that does not center in and spring out from HIS Church.

The Church is the dwelling place of God by means of His Holy Spirit. The Church is not just some good benevolent organization or institution. The Church is the **ONLY** thing down here that can claim a heavenly origin.

The Church is wherever the Holy Spirit has brought together two or more people who have trusted in Jesus Christ for their salvation and who worship God in spirit, as they have withdrawn from the world and the flesh.

These groups of believers are like cells in the Body of Christ, and each "cell" is a true Church, a real part of the overall, total Church. It is through these "cells," congregations, that the Holy Spirit of God does His work on earth.

I. THE PURPOSE/MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS TO DECLARE, PROCLAIM AND WITNESS

1. God established the Church to witness to certain great, eternal truths He gave which the world cannot possibly know unless the Church tells them.
 - The Church is to teach what God says and the world is to listen and all who receive the witness about Jesus, are to be baptized and taught further.
 - The first Christians saw and heard the wonders of God through Jesus, Himself, and then scattered around to spread the good news in great excitement.
 - The first Christians had something to tell the world and were convinced that they had what the world needed so desperately and it could not afford to ignore their message.
2. Whenever the Church has been conscious of the "one walking among His golden candlesticks, with the voice of many waters," it stood boldly to of that voice and the world has had to listen.
 - Sometimes the world refused to hear and put to death those who spoke of that voice.
 - Sometimes the world heard but refused to obey what they heard.
 - Sometimes some heard, obeyed, repented and also became followers of Christ, Christians.
 - **Always the world was on the receiving end and the Church was on the speaking end.**

II. THE CHURCH HAS LOST HER TESTIMONY IN TODAY'S GENERATION/TIME

1. The Church in today's time no longer seems to have anything to say to the world.
 - Bold assurance has faded away to a whisper of apology. Inquiring instead of declaring. Giving religious suggestions and advice as only an opinion, not wanting to hurt any feelings.
2. Not only does the Church have nothing to say to the world today, but the ministers are now going to the world for "light" seeking from man, not God, their messages for God's people.

They want the applause and favor of everyone, while saying a nice word about Jesus now and then.

3. Today's Christianity is saying to Jesus, "We will eat our own food and provide our own clothes, we only want to use your name." Today's Christianity has turned God's Church into play-houses and little theaters, ignorant of true worship, totally blind to the real meaning of discipleship.

III. WHAT, EXACTLY IS THE TRUE CHURCH SUPPOSED TO BE DECLARING?

1. That GOD IS ALL IN ALL! *"You are my witness, declared the Lord...and my servant whom I have chosen...so that you may know and believe me..and understand that I am HE.. Before Me no god was formed...nor will there be one after ME...Yes, and from ancient days I am HE...No one can deliver out of My hand..." (Isaiah 43:10, 13)*
2. We, people, are made by God and FOR Him. God made the heaven and the earth and put man on the earth, making him for Himself and there is no other answer to "where did I come from and why am I here..."
3. The Christian is not to argue, try to persuade, nor to prove or demonstrate. The Christian is to declare *"Thus saith the Lord!!!"* Anything else is just that person's commentary.
 - Being right with God is the very first responsible act of every person.
 - Knowing one cannot go to God on his/her own, one must therefore accept the truth that God came to people and brought all that is needed for people to be right with God.
4. The message of the Church to the world is that of Salvation, Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment.
 - The world's moral code is unacceptable to God, to oppose it, and to warn people of the consequences of following it instead of God's ordained ways for people.
 - The message must be proclaimed loudly and persistently, and being careful to live what one is preaching, telling, saying about God's only acceptable way.
5. God is a just and Holy Being who will not trifle with people nor allow them to trifle with Him. He is longsuffering and waits patiently graciously, but after a while His gracious invitation to the gospel is withdrawn and eternity in hell is the status of those who ignored God's invitation and will sent to the place where there is no more hope for all eternity.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is the Church's mission to keep repeating God's message to every generation of people.
2. The Church, Christians are to witness to everyone of God's love and Jesus' provision for salvation.
3. Every Church and every Christian will give an account to God for what was done or not done.
4. So, what has been the message of our/this Church?