

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

Ephesians 3:10; 2:1-10; Matthew 28:19-20

Introduction: The great commission in Matthew 28:19-20 was given to individuals, not to a nation. Today we have the "Church" which was instituted by the Lord Jesus to carry out the great commission. The word "Church" first came from "ekklesia" (called out ones), then "kurioikos" (house of the Lord), then "kirkus" then "kirk", then "Church" as we have it today. There are "churches" on many street corners in countless places in the world, all appearing differently, all with different sounds coming from them, leaders wearing different attire, all having different rules and regulations. So, just what is the purpose of the TRUE church?

I. WHAT THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH IS NOT

1. The purpose of the Church is not to win the whole world to Jesus Christ.
 - Multitudes will not believe however there is coming a day when the whole world will acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, but not in the "Church Age."
2. The purpose of the Church is not to correct the evil and sin in the world.
 - There will come a day when Satan and all his evilness will be cast from this world, but not in the "Church Age."
3. The purpose of the Church is not to be a world improvement organization.
 - There will come a day when this world will be at total peace with plenty for all and no sickness, no pain, etc., but not in the "Church Age."

II. WHAT THE CHURCH IS

1. The Church was a mystery to the Old Testament and to the Jews.
2. The Church began with Jesus Christ and His Cross (it is not a continuation of the Old Testament).
3. God is calling from out of all mankind those who would believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, one at a time.
4. Those believing in God's Son are called "living stones," "the living body" from all races, these make up God's Church.

III. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

1. The purpose of the Church is to call out from the world those who would believe in Jesus.
2. God's immediate purpose, the purpose of the mysterious age of the Gentile, is the completion of the Church.

3. The purpose of the Church is to be a witness in all the world to Jesus Christ.
4. The purpose of the Church is to sow seed (Matthew 13:1-23) that will one day bring forth fruit to be harvested (souls) by the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. The purpose of the Church is for man to hear the Gospel and believe. The Church is to make sure every person has the opportunity to hear that Gospel (about Jesus).
6. The believer, the Church is Jesus Christ's means of building His Body of Believers.

IV. MEANS OF THE CHURCH FULFILLING ITS PURPOSE

1. Money sends preachers/missionaries around the world with the Gospel.
2. Prayer opens doors for God to work through.
3. By word of mouth, personal testimonies by those who have believed in Jesus Christ.
4. By every method of today's time - electronics, printed words, etc.
5. By institutions of learning.

CONCLUSION:

1. If YOU are a Christian, then you are a part of God's Church, the Body of Christ and you have a responsibility, a duty, an entrusted assignment to help the world know about Jesus.
2. Are you fulfilling your role, your part as a member of the Body of Christ?