

WHY IS THE CHURCH HERE?

Matthew 28:19-20

Introduction: An awful lot of people are living their lives with no determined purpose. They get up in the mornings, go to work, come home after work, watch t.v. till bed time, go to bed, sleep get up, go to work, and repeat the same routine day after day, week after week, year after year. They don't seem to have any goals, aims or purposes in their lives. They just do the same thing every day.

Jesus is the perfect model of someone living a life with purpose. His purpose for coming dominated everything He did. He knew what He was about, what He was here for. Comparing His Church with His life style, what is the Church here for? What are we, His Church supposed to be doing? What is our purpose?

I. WHY DID JESUS COME, IN THE FIRST PLACE?

1. Jesus came to bring hope to those in despair. (*Luke 4:16-21*)
 - Jesus came to enable people like us to be free from sin, to be alive with home and released from despair.
2. Jesus came to reach out to sinners, people like us. (*Luke 5:31*)
 - Jesus came to tell of God's love for sinners and His willingness to welcome them into His family.
3. Jesus came to seek out and to save the lost. (*Luke 19:10*)
 - Jesus came to find us and save us from our eternal lostness and hell.
4. Jesus came to ransom the captive (us). (*Mark 10:45*)
 - Jesus came to free us from sin by giving His own life.
5. Jesus came to do the Father's will and work. (*John 4:31-34; 2 Peter 3:9*)
 - God ordained that "*...none should perish in sin, but come to repentance by faith in Jesus' name...*"
 - Jesus came to see that mankind knew what the Father wanted.
6. Jesus came to make possible super-abundant living. (*John 10:10, 27-30*)
 - Jesus came to give life that cannot be take away, eternal life.
7. Jesus came to bring glory to God, the Father. (*John 17:4, 6, 26*)
 - Jesus came to make God known to men.

II. WHAT IS THE CHURCH SUPPOSED TO BE DOING?

1. Ever notice the toys little children play with? Bells, whistles, wheels, balls, buttons, chains, lights, push a button and the wheels turn, the whistles sound, the bells ring, the balls bounce, the chains turn, the lights flash, but nothing is really accomplished? It perfoms no function of value other than entertaining a little child. All the whirling, grinding, light

flashing, bell ringing whistle blowing but nothing accomplished.

2. What do we accomplish with what we are doing as a Church? Jesus had a purpose, so what is the purpose for what we are actually doing?
 - What do the Church organizations actually accomplish?
 - What do the Church committees actually contribute to Jesus' purpose?
 - What is accomplished in the "worship" services?
 - Most Churches are like the little toy just described that a little child has. Lots of noise, flashing, whirling, grinding, turning, ringing, but accomplishing little of anything.

3. The Church has but ONE purpose for being here - SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION!
 - **Matthew 28:19-20**
 - The Church is here to encourage, lead unbelievers to come to faith in Jesus Christ.
 - The Church is here to teach, lead, help believers into the Word of God to become all God wants them to be.
 - The Church is believers, separated from the world for a time, to do things together as the family of God.
 - The Church is believers coming together, away from the world and its influence and call, to praise God in singing, praying, laughing, sharing, listening to God's Word, encouraging and welcoming new believers into God's family.

4. THE CHURCH HAS BUT ONE PURPOSE: The spiritual transformation of people! Everything the Church does is to be aimed at this ONE purpose.

III. THERE ARE CHALLENGES THE CHURCH FACES TO FULFILL IT'S PURPOSE

1. Jesus was challenged as He went about bringing spiritual transformation.
 - When in the wilderness, there was the need for food and water, when around the religious there were the miracles they wanted to see, being popular with the people, and being the servant He had come to be.
 - When among the crowds, there was the tug to change His purpose and yield to being popular and become their "king."
 - When with His disciples, they wanted Him to change His purpose and not die on a cross.

2. The Church also has and will always have challenges to fulfill its purpose.
 - Satan will use all his methods to change the purpose of the Church.
 - The world will call for the Church to listen to what the people want and change its methods.
 - Human nature of self-centeredness will try to override God's purpose with SELF's purpose.
 - Faithlessness will cause failure to step out and act without having all the facts and funds.
 - Lack of knowledge because of not going by the Word of God but by human ways.
 - Slowly, unconsciously drifting away from the only purpose of the Church.
 - Deliberate rebellion because of selfishness pushing aside God's purpose for the Church.
 - Distraction from things outside of God's purpose, drawing attention away.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus came with a purpose in His mind and heart and fulfilled it in every detail.
2. Jesus came to make it possible for people to be restored back to God.
3. The Church is to pick up where Jesus left off and continue to bring people back to God.
4. The Church is God's family on earth and is to be concerned with whatever God wants it to be doing.
5. Is our Church focused upon doing what God says it is to be doing? Or is our Church busy like the little child's toy, making a lot of noise, doing a lot of things, but actually contributing nothing to God's kingdom? Failing to fulfill it's only true, real purpose for being here.
6. How different would things be if God's Church was doing what it is supposed to be doing?