

Purposes Of the Church:

- It is important to remind ourselves of the purposes of the ekklesia, the called-out ones, the saints, the bride of Christ, the Church.
 - God has a wonderful plan for Jesus. You are not the focus of your Christian faith. Jesus is your focus, and doing His will is your priority.
 - God is preparing you for eternity in heaven. Jesus is preparing His bride for the marriage supper of the Lamb.
 - What spiritual gifts have you been given to fulfill the purposes of the Church? How are you using your spiritual gifts as good stewards of God's grace?
1. **How are you fulfilling the purposes of the church? See below...**
 - to make disciples of Jesus Christ
 - to baptize believers in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
 - to be witnesses of Jesus Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension
 - to worship, serve, glorify the Lord in spirit and in truth
 - to equip the saints to serve
 - to edify the saints
 - to be the light of the world
 - to do good works (Matt 5:16; Jn 14:12; Eph 2:10; Tit 2:14; 3:8)
 - to lead sinners to receive forgiveness in Christ
 - to obey the commands of Jesus
 - to grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus
 - to be led by the Holy Spirit as children of God
 - to proclaim the praises of Jesus
 - to bear much spiritual fruit
 - to proclaim the truth in Christ
 - to care one another as the Body of Christ
 - to help the weak
 - to send others out to evangelize the world
 - **to make known God's wisdom to the principalities and powers in the heavens**
 - to teach others how to study the Bible
 - to be present with the widows and the fatherless in their need
 - to celebrate Communion, remembering the death of Jesus and His cleansing blood
 2. **What gifts of grace have you been given?**
 - "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us" (Rom 12:6)
 - "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit...But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills." (1Cor 12:4,11)
 - "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift." (Eph 4:7)
 3. **How are you using them to serve others as good stewards of God's grace?**
 - "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1Pet 4:10)
 - "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all" (1Cor 12:7)

~~~~~ Corresponding Bible Verses for Each Purpose Above

- to make disciples of Jesus Christ (Matt 28:19; 1Cor 11:1; Eph 5:1; Matt 11:29; Phil 3:10; 2Pet 1:5-8; 3:19)
- to baptize believers (Matt 28:19; Acts 2:38; 8:12,36; 9:18; 10:47; 22:16; Rom 6:3; 1Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27; Eph 4:5; Col 2:12; 1Pet 3:21)
- to be witnesses of Jesus Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension (Acts 1:8-9; 1Cor 15:3-6; Rom 4:25; Eph 1:19-20)
- to worship, serve, glorify the Lord in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:23,24; Matt 4:10; Lk 4:8; 1Cor 10:31; Phil 2:11,13; Eph 6:6; Col 3:17,23; **1Pet 4:11**)
- to equip the saints to serve (Eph 4:14; Gal 5:13)
- to edify the saints (Eph 4:12,16,29; Rom 14:19; 15:2; 1Cor 14:12; 2Cor 12:19)
- to be the light of the world (Matt 5:14; Eph 5:2)
- to do good works (Matt 5:16; Jn 14:12; Eph 2:10; Tit 2:14; 3:8)
- to lead sinners to receive forgiveness in Christ (Lk 24:47; Acts 2:38; 5:31; 10:43; 13:38; 26:18; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14)
- to obey the commands of Jesus (Matt 28:20; Jn 14:15,21,23,24; 15:10; Rev 3:10)
- to grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus (2Pet 3:18; 2Tim 2:1; Heb 4:16; Jn 1:16)
- to be led by the Holy Spirit as children of God (Rom 8:14; **Jn 3:8**; Ps 32:8)
- to proclaim the praises of Jesus (2Pet 2:9)

- to bear much spiritual fruit (Jn 15:2,5,8,16; Col 1:10; 2Pet 1:8; Matt 13:23; Mk 4:20; Rom 6:22; 7:4; Gal 5:22-23; Eph 5:9)
- to proclaim the truth in Christ (Isa 61:1,2; Lk 4:18-19; Acts 26:23; 1Cor 11:26; 1Pet 2:9; Acts 4:19-20; 10:37-42; 20:20-21)
- to care one another as the Body of Christ (1Cor 12:24-26; Rom 12:15; Gal 6:2; 1Jn 3:10,14,17; 4:21)
 - "But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another." (1Cor 12:24,25)
- to help the weak (Acts 20:35; 1Cor 12:22,23)
 - "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must [dei] support the weak." (Acts 20:35)
 - "No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor" (1Cor 12:22,23)
- to send others out to evangelize the world (Jn 20:21; Isa 52:7; Rom 10:14-15; Eph 4; 2Tim 4:5)
- **to make known God's wisdom to the principalities and powers in the heavens**
 - "to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places" (Eph 3:10)
 - "They [angelic creation] are intently observing and learning about God, His nature and His purposes, through His work of creating and redeeming men and women, whom He had created in His image (Job 1:3-2:10; 1Pe 1:12; Heb 12:1)." – Henry Morris [https://www.preceptaustin.org/ephesians_310]
 - "The church is not just a nice place to drop by on Sundays if you're not doing anything more interesting! The church is God's vehicle for making known His manifold wisdom, not only on earth, but also to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." – John Piper
- to teach others how to study the Bible (Eph 3:3-4; 2Tim 2:2; Lk 24:27,35; Jn 1:18; Acts 10:8; 15:12,14; 21:19; 2Tim 2:15)
- to be present with the widows and the fatherless in their need (Jm 1:27)
- "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim [katangelo] the Lord's death till He comes." (1Cor 11:26)
 - "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (Lk 22:19)
 - "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion [koinonia] of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion [koinonia] of the body of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread." (1Cor 10:16-17)
 - "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread" (1Cor 11:23)
 - "In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (1Cor 11:25)
 - "He broke it and said, Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (1Cor 11:24)
 - "And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread." (Lk 24:35)
 - "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42)

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