

The Purpose Of The Church

Many people today wrongly understand the church to be a building, an address. The word “church” is actually a translation of the Greek word “ecclesia,” a group of people who are called out of the world and into God’s Kingdom. The root meaning is not a building, but people. (Ephesians 2:19–22) Paul’s greeting says it all in Romans 16:3-5 *Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,... Likewise greet the church that is in their house.*

The Church is the body of believers who are called out of spiritual darkness to proclaim the Good News that man’s broken relationship with God was restored. He did that by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the payment for man’s rebellion against God. (Genesis 3; Romans 5:8, 8:3-4; John 3:16-17; Hebrews 10:14)

The multifaceted purpose of the Church can be summarized in four great activities: to reach the lost, to restore broken lives, to equip people for fruitful ministry and, as a Church, to extend out into His Harvest field.

1. Reach the lost.

- This is not a burden or guilt filled activity but a natural response to our own salvation. It’s something we want to share with others. Although not everyone is always ready to receive Christ, we can always “scatter seed” with God’s love.
- John 1:35-50 reveals how Jesus’ disciples used the “Come and see method.”
- Our purpose — We reach the lost by presenting Christ in relational ways that would draw the non-Christian person to personally meet and receive Christ. This is also accomplished by meeting people at their point of need.

2. Restore those whom God brings.

- Most people who come to Christ carry the brokenness of a life lived outside the blessings of God. Some may need deep deliverance from addictions, etc. The Church has the answer through the power of the Holy Spirit as reflected in the ministry Christ (Luke 4:14-21; Isaiah 61:1-3)!

- God's people can assist others in shedding their "grave clothes" as the disciples were told to loose Lazarus when Jesus raised him from death. (John 11:43-44)
- Our purpose — We restore broken lives by loving and accepting people as they are, for who they are. We then assist them in their freedom from bondage, hurt, torment and imbalance.

3. Equip (prepare) God's people for service.

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-2, 4-11; Ephesians 4:11-16
- Our purpose — God's desire is that everyone experiences a meaningful place of service in the Body of Christ. We assist people in discovering their spiritual gifts, personal style of service and their passion in life so they can serve Christ better.

4. Then, as the Church, we extend out into His Harvest field.

- Matthew 9:37-38; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8.
- Our purpose — We believe that Christ commissioned us to go into all the world with the Gospel and to make disciples of all nations. This is accomplished by spreading His Love at home and through missions projects and trips abroad.

Known for His Attendance — Several years ago, Leslie Keegle, Sri Lanka National Foursquare leader, gave a prophecy to Christian Life Center. Here's a portion of that word...
...There will be a move of My Spirit. Have your eyes on Me, hunger and thirst for My righteousness, for My Spirit and My word. ...and innumerable people will come and fall on their faces before Me. This place shall be known for My glory. This place will be known for My attendance for I will pour out My Spirit says the Lord, and you shall be known as a people of My Presence.